**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**
*Washington, D.C. 20535*

July 3, 2018

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.
SUITE 1203
27305 WEST LIVE OAK ROAD
CASTAIC, CA 91384

FOIPA Request No.: 1394631-000
Subject: BALLARD, GUY WARREN

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

Records responsive to your request were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Below you will find informational paragraphs relevant to your request. Please read each item carefully.

Enclosed are 757 pages of previously processed documents and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions. This release is being provided to you at no charge.

Please be advised that additional records potentially responsive to your subject may exist. If this release of previously processed material does not satisfy your information needs for this request, you may request an additional search for records. Submit your request by mail or fax to – Work Process Unit, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, fax number (540) 868-4997. Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in your correspondence.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S. C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010). This response is limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, or by emailing ogis@nara.gov. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaquestions@fbi.gov.

If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state “Dispute Resolution Services.” Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

Sincerely,

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Information Management Division

Enclosure(s)

**EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS**

**SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552**

(b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;

(b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;

(b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;

(b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;

(b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;

(b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or

(b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

**SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a**

(d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;

(j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;

(k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;

(k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;

(k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;

(k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service he release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;

(k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1394631-0

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
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MCRP
MRS. G.W. BALLARD
2-2-61 R-33C

MCRP
Beet E. Clayton
6-25-64
R-4

MCRP
SALLY

MCRP
Grant L. Lewis
10/3/73 R# 320

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FILING SERVICES
ATTACH ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE

(ex-3[illegible] 300 So Coronado St)

Los Angeles, Calif. Jan. 27th 1940.

Honorable J. EDGAR HOOVER,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

(Re-'The Great 'I AM' Movement'

My Dear Sir:

It is with considerable hesitancy that I take up this matter with your Department, but my hands as well as the hands of hundreds of others are tied and helpless and rendered powerless by the ties of Love and affection for those near to us and around and about us who have been swept into this more or less NEW Religious Cult.

To resist them is to increase their religious fervor, but when this fervor overbalances sane religious thinking, makes them put up strange fanatical religous pictures, makes them ridicule the Bible itself and carries out Hoaxes on their Believers, then I'm American enough, and think enough of my home to act regardless of consequences. My own Home is among those in danger and my little seven year old Daughter's thinking was becoming distorted, and the Housekeeper I have is positively insane at times with this hysteria.

Right now (and I only found this out by accident) their Big Leader, 'BALLARD' made an Ascension during the Holidays into the Spiritual World with a promised Divine Return around or about the 15th or 13th of February. Understand an Undertaker and Doctor were in on this Ascension to make it realistic, and with the use of Trick ~~Light~~ Lights was made to disappear before the very gaze of his Followers. Of course this Class of Followers had to be 100% Believers.

If this particular Religious HOAX could be exposed, these ~~Light~~ Followers undoubtedly would be open to some sane and sensible thinking and their contributions out of their meager earnings would not be concentrated for any subversive activities. A Russian Born local Shoeman by the name of Zinke seems to be one of the big motivating forces behind this movement for some reason, and with his trips back to the Old County and his return the last time shortly after War was declared, it makes me mighty suspicious of the Big Ballyhoo on their being organized to Save America from War.

This Movement is more or less National in its scope and has a few Million Followers evidently who can be handled and herded around like so many sheep under this Ascended Masters Leadership Principle and whoever or whatever is behind it all.

Perhaps this is just another 'Front' Organization the like of which your Department is so familiar with. Perhaps a certain large Hotel where these Ballards used to throw some large parties with all the trimmings, could throw a bit of light on certain activities.

I'm no Sleuth by a long ways but will be glad to be of every possible assistance, however it is difficult to put onto paper what I have in my mind. I do not intend to have my Home broken up, but if this HOAX is successful these Followers will be waiting on the Water next with their pocketbooks on the Shore.

Am suggesting a bit of Haste if this Divine Return from his Spiritual visit with the Ascended Masters is to be exposed. Had a talk with your local Department here and was advised to write you this letter. Wouldn't be surprised if you already had this organization under surveillance as certainly I am not the first suspicious person.

Most sincerely,

T. Ray Holsinger

PS:

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-1

COPY/GJD

(EX-8646 - 306 So Coronado St)

Los Angeles, Calif. Jany, 27th 1940.

Honorable J. EDGAR HOOVER,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
DATE 11/24/82 BY SP6 [illegible]

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Most sincerely,

T. Ray Holsinger (S)

PS:

The above Address and Telephone number are my Brother-in-law's as I would be spoiling everything to have one of your Investigators come to my own home. His name is O. E. Osborn and has helped me write this letter at my insistance but he is in sympathy with my action as your office is the place for these delicate pieces of dynamite.

I work five days a week for the North American Aircraft Co., but am free on Saturdays and Sundays and every evening.

Best Avaliable Copy

KRM/bw
~~62-56494-1~~
62-56722-X

January 18, 1940

RECORDED & INDEXED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
MR. EDWARD G. KEMP

---

I am attaching hereto a copy of a letter from Miss Kathryn Messemer of 27 West 55th Street, New York City, together with a copy of an affidavit of Virginia La Ferrera.

I wish after a perusal of this material, you would advise me whether any investigation is warranted by this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Attachments

DE 11/26/82 SPE8 [illegible]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Hendon
[illegible]
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Candy

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DIVISION ONE
RECEIVED

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DIVISION ONE
JAN 23 4 23 PH '40
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, N. Y.

TJD:KM

January 10, 1940

68324

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter from Miss Kathryn Messemer of 27 West 55th Street, New York City, together with a copy of an affidavit of VIRGINIA LAFERRERA which was forwarded to this office.

Miss Messemer was advised that apparently this matter does not come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, but that it was being referred to the headquarters of the Bureau at Washington, D. C. for the purpose of being called to the attention of the Department of Justice to determine whether the information set forth in the affidavit of Virginia LaFerrera and the letter of Kathryn Messemer involve any Federal violation.

Very truly yours,

P. E. Foxworth

P. E. FOXWORTH
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosures

62-225140

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/26/82 BY SP6BAP/mg

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN. 11 1940
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1 ENCLOSURE

Memo Mr. Kemp
1-18-40 KRM

FORWARDED
FILES SECTION
JAN 12 2 00 PM
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
DIVISION ONE
JAN 23 4 21 PM '40
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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

1

COPY

27 West 55 St.
New York, N. Y.
Dec. 27, '39

68325

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Court House, N. Y. City.

To Whom it may concern:

I wish to call your attention to the "I Am" Broadcasts over radio station WHN. Do you realize what these people represent? On general principles people are not permitted to speak over radio networks who advocate killing people and that are a force working against Democracy.

I enclose the following affidavit for your convenience.

Something was done about Father Coughlan and something needs to be done about the "I Am" Broadcasts by Mrs. Ballard all over the U.S.

I recommend this matter to your serious attention, and if you are not responsible in such cases, please send this to the proper authorities.

Sincerely

/s/ Kathryn Messemer

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/26/92 BY SP6BLD/mj

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AFFADAVIT OF VIRGINIA LA FERRERA.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ) ss
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO)

Virginia LaFerrera being duly sworn, doposes and says:
That she went to her first "I AM CLASS" in May, 1936, which was held at the Scottish Rite Auditorium, in the City and County of San Francisco, State of California. From that time on she has been continously associated with I AM Classes, first as a student, later as group leader, and two years ago, 1937, she went on a tour with the Ballards, who claim to represent the Ascended Masters, namely: St Germain and others.

When she went onto the staff in Seattle, Washington, in 1937, we used to have nightly meetings and one thing which shocked her terrificall at the time, although she did not understand it, was an activity in which she could not and would not participate in spirit, which was as follows: A little table was set in the middle of the room in which the staff, consisting of about fourteen people, were assembled, and on the table was placed a dirigold goblet in which were some gold coins, which were contributions of different members of the staff. Those meetings were held in the rooms occupied by the Ballards, On the top of the gold coins was laid a list of names of people starting with the names of the President of the United States, his wife, various members of the Presidential cabinet the name of Dr. Gerald Bryan and other people who had incurred the displeasu of the Ballards, and whom they did not like. The staff was then told in a circle about the dirigold goblet, with a man and a woman alternating, and then they were led in a decree by Mr. Ballard alternating with Mrs. Ballard, pronounced and worded in words similar to the following:

Mighty I AM Presence, Blessed St. Germain, Jesus, Nada, Great Divine Director and Mighty Legions of Light; Roosevelt, Morgenthau, etc., Blast, blast, blast their carcasses from the face of the earth forever. Stiffen on the cross of Blue Flame all those who oppose this Light." This practice occurred every night when the staff returned from Class, or when the Staff forgathered after the day's work.

On these occasions Mr. Ballard would bring forth a dictation from the Ascended Master St. Germain. Mr. Ballard, at these times, would stiffen up and say, "Ithnk you." All would become quiet and the dictation would come thru purporting to come from the Ascended Masters. There were many contradictions in those so-called dictations. Sometime, Mr. Ballard would forget that St. Germain was talking, and would suddenly say "This is me talking now", and then switch to St. Germain.

I had my greatest awakening in Los Angeles in January 1939. I begged the Ballards, to let us, my husband and me, remain in Los Angeles, instead of making a trip to Yosemite, when Mr. LaFerrera was quite ill. Mr. Ballard insisted that we accompany the staff regardless of his condition. When we arrived at Yosemite, Mrs. Ballard lost her voice and could not speak out loud for eight days - having ulcers all over her throat - and that conflicted with everything they taught us, as they were supposed to be immune to human creation of ~~sickness~~ every description, having told us many times that they had their freedom.

I have made transcriptions of organ [illegible] had a streptococci infection and a temperature of over [illegible] ards refused to

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call a doctor. This left me with a throat condition which I still have. Mr. Ballard, in one of the messages from St. Germain, stated, "Dear Lotus is suffering from this throat ailment because she has so generoulsy taken it into her body from Vincent and me."

I become more and more disillusioned - when we arrived an Chicago, many more things took place there and brought me to my senses, revealing to me all I needed to know regarding the ~~ex~~ falseness of the activities of the Ballards in claiming to represent St. Germain and the Ascended Masters, for instance: We arrived by plane in Chicago on Wednesday - Mrs. Ballard, Mr. Mundy, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, Mr. LaFerrera and me. The rest of the staff didnot come until Saturday by auto. Sunday morning we had a staff meeting in Mrs. Ballard's apartment in the Congress Hotel. During the dictation given by St. Germain, Mrs Ballard asked St. Germain if Mr. Engen had made his Ascension. St. Germain (Mr. Ballard) looked very bewildered and uninformed and showd very definitely that he did not know what she was talking about. Mrs. Ballard proceeded to explain who Mr. Engen was - he was a New York student, a member of Mrs. Fischer's 100% group, who had passed on five days before, and he was the father of the three little girls who go to the New York "I AM SCHOOL". So St. Germain said: "Oh yes, I will look into the matter and let you know at some future time whether he made his Ascension or not." (One of St. Germain's statements through Mr. Ballard as dictated was "Let no one think that any of the students at the time of so-called death, have made their Ascension, unless He "St. Germain" had informed the messengers (Ballards) which he would do immediately. There would be no delay.

(Mr. Engen had passed away five days prior to the time Mrs. Ballard had spoken ot it in class meeting referred to above.)

So ~~wat~~ Mrs. Ballard not being satisfied, continued his case, insisting that he had made his Ascension, stating that he had given fifteen cents to the Minute men - one dollar to the activity, etc., etc. and further stated that he was a 100% student and in spite of his financial condition had been very loyal, and that she was sure he had made his Ascension. So without further delay, or looking into it further, St. Germain said: "Oh yes, he has made his Ascension."

The report of the above made a definite impression on the New York students- thinking one of their member had really made the Ascension.

Following this was the very abusive treatment of Mrs. Muriel Bliss, who was one of the appointed Messengers who had charge of the Chicago Reading Room Sanctuary. She was one of the first seven students. She was attacked and insulted by sayements of unkind and untrue things said about her, and later in California, she was insulted by being named from the platform publicly, the culminations of her decision was brought about through the Ballard's complaints of empty seats in the class, and lack of co-operation of the Chicago students in not showing their appreciation of the Messenger's presence in Chicago. She was finally forced to withdraw by lack of co-operaton in the unkindness and abuse of the Ballards. One afternoon during the Chicago class, Mrs. Ballard finished up by saying that what they needed in Chicago was some one like Frances Ekay in Philadelphia. This was the last straw for Mrs. Bliss - she got up and walkied out of the class.

When Mrs. Bliss turned over the Sanctuary, the Ballards said from the platform "The Messenger who has just withdrawn was an INSANEFIEND.

AN UNGRATEFUL WRETCH, A SNAKE, etc." Mrs Ballard stating that she had crossed Chicago at night and healed the Messenger and her family of diseases of their social ~~xxx~~ living and life in the early days of their association.

In regard to the financial angle, and how the work was financed: Mr. Harry Rogers was the spokesman for the Ballards, and coming out on the platform a few minutes ahead of the Ballards and giving such announcements as were necessary, then holding up one of the small LOVE GIFT envelopes, he would explain "Beloved students, this little envelope is for your convenience, this is your opportunity to obtain your freedom - you only get frr by giving - the Ascended Masters gave all, so they have all." The large charts give much more radiation then the small ones, and all the staff have one in their hotel-rooms and all the students who can afford it should have one. Mr. Ballard, on special occasions and afternoons during the class will autograph books which are purchased at the class. St. Germain has only given His permission for those books which have been bought during the present class, and no books bought bought at book stores or reading rooms could be autographed. Mr. Ballard said that St. Germain always charged a radiation through him while he autographed the books. ~~xxxx~~ The rays were from St. Germain, the Ascended Lady Master Nada, Goddess of Light and the Great Divine Director and were sent forth for the special benefit of the students who had their books autographed.

Students were urged to have their private set of books and a special set for lending, because another person handling their books would disturb their radiation - the radiation charged into the books during autographing for the student's individual blessing who purchased the books and this was interfered with when their books were lent to strangers. (Price of books $2.75 up.)

Records and transcriptions of music were leased at the rate of $20.00 per quarter hour for radio work, music written by the staff was and is sold by the Ballards at a high rate.

Lithographed charts were sold small $1.00 large $15.00/ Animated chart, small $50. large $200. Violet flame in motion, small $50.00, large $200.00.

Students are urged to gift love ~~xxx~~ gifts and many people have beggared themselves giving to the Ballards as representatives of the Ascended Masters, only to be avoided and dropped when drained dry.

Blasting the people and the instilling of fear into the staff of which your affiant was one, was practiced by the Ballars, who stated that the members of the staff could not go out into the world because their bodies were so refined that the world would shatter them, that the members of the staff could not live as other people live because of their extreme refinement. (The staff lived at the best hotels, ate the best foods, travelled by air as much as possible, and dressed in evening clothes for their classes). Letters would call for the student bodies in Chicago, Denver, Seattle, Chicago, Boston, Washington, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Cleveland, San Francisco and Kansas City to blast those who have been recently dismissed from their workm in other words, demanding their death.

Those dismissed were and are bemoaned from the platform or pulpit in decrees, and called insane fiends, snakes, heartless wretches, running the whole gamit of foul and slimy implications, even the accusation of

unclean blood-stream is hurled at them.

The Ballards are continuously seeing spies and looking for them, Nazi, Russian, Fascist, etc and finding them in hotels, restaurants on trains and in airplanes. Many times, in Yosemite, when in the dining room a foreign tongue was heard, the Ballards would immediately cause the staff to return to their rooms - usually a wing of the hotel would be engaged and often an entire floor - and where the spies would be blasted, as herein set forth.

In Washington, D. C. Class, I prayed, "Dear God, get me out of this before I go insane, I will go insane if you do not get me out of this thing."

One cannot leave the staff voluntary, but has to be kicked out or incur the displeasure of the Ballards. Your affiant is thankful that she is no longer one of the Ballard staff.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this _____ day of August, 1939._____

Notary Public City and County of San Francisco
State of California.

This is a copy.

JFP:ESK
62-56722-1

February 29, 1940

Mr. T. Ray Holsinger
306 South Coronado Street
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Holsinger:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 27, 1940.

Your courtesy and cooperation in bringing the information therein to my attention is sincerely appreciated. I am transmitting a copy of your letter to Mr. R. B. Hood, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, 810 South Spring Building, Room 603, Los Angeles, California, and suggest that should you have any further information you deem of interest to this Bureau you communicate directly with Mr. Hood at the above address.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/26/97 BY SP4 RDS/mp

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Headon
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

CC: Los Angeles (With copy incoming)

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
FEB 29 1940
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

D

Mr. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-10-2010 BY SP2 STP/MJS

May 31, 1940

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/26/82 BY SP2 RTM

Mr. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-1X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 4 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Dear Mr. Hoover:

As comments and investigations are now being conducted in regard to "fifth column" activities in the United States, I feel that as an American citizen I should submit information of such nature for your investigation.

This is in regard to an organization that seems to be gaining momentum in several large cities. I have no definite or conclusive evidence that they are fifth columnists however judging from what I have seen and heard they bear ear marks of suspicion and an under cover investigation might reveal their true purpose and identity.

This is a crack pot religous organization who brand themselves as the "I Am's", their movement being initiated by a Mr. and Mrs. Ballard and their son. They claim a membership of about 6,000 in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles and Washington and probably some other cities.

The information I am submitting was gained from a couple who are members of this organization. They were remote acquaintances of ours from out of town. Last June they held a ten day convention at the Shrine Temple in Washington, D. C., the purpose of which was to gain new members. This couple visited us a couple of times during the convention and they being of a rather lower class of people and of foriegn extraction, they probably revealed more information than they should have. At that time fifth column activities were not in the public eye and we dismissed the organization as a group of crack pots.

However, as I think back their organization appears suspicious. At the convention secret meetings were held to which only selct members were admitted. Select members were those who had passed a series of tests and were proprly disciplined. They are taught to tjink of only themselves and not to be affected by the misfortunes of others, probably to harden them for their future duties and things to come. They pred icted at that time a catastrophe for September or October and from the results of this chaos they were the only ones to be saved. Their predictin was probably the start of World War No. II. This catastrophe according to them was to lead to the destruction of this country but that the "I Am's" had nothing to fear as they would be saved. During the convention the sinking of the submarine "Squalus" occurred. While every body seemed sympathetic toward the misfortune they seemed to feel that some man had received his orders to carry out the plan and in so doing he had sacrificed himself for the cause. They were very unconcerned about the matter and certainly most emphatically examplified their teachings to think

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

"I Am" Movement

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OCT 26 1964 96

JUN 26 RECD

of only themselves.

It is characteristic of fifth column organizations to masquerade their true identity. The "I Am's" always wear a small American Flag on their lapel and very fervently swear allegiance to the American Flag at all their meetings, all of which arouses my suspicions. A passing remark was made by one member of this couple and shushed by the other that Hitler was a member of their organization. I am inclined to believe this as Hitler is a vegetarian and so are the "I Am's". At least there are some possibilities of connections. This couple also took particular pride in their three year old son being able to do the Nazi salute.

Their religious theories are based on the teachings of St. Germain mixed and confused with some modern ideas such as receiving powers from the cosmic rays. At their meetings usually held on Sunday nights men must wear white linen or very light colored suits and on special occasions pink neckties and likewise the women must dress in white. The colors, red and black, are prohibited as they do not permit the penetration of cosmic rays. Their prayers are called decrees. They forever hammer on the idea of "I Am",- I am the Almighty presence, etc. They are the firm believers in the reincarnation of souls and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ballard is supposed to have the s oul of George Washington reincarnated in him which appears like another patriotic gesture. The members are called upon to contribute heavily financially the contributions being called "love gifts" for Mr. and Mrs. Ballard who are tobe made millionaires. They are not allowed to smoke, drink or dance or carry on sexual relations except for the purpose of reproduction.

This may all appear insane, but if you delegate one of your men to investigate this group as a fervent member he would be taught these things and probably learn much more than this letter portrays. I am not positive of the address of their meeting place but I recall something like 1135 M Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. It is a revamped residence and can be readily recognized by the bright lighting during their meetings. Their headquarters are supposed to be in California.

Unless this couple sadly misintrepeted their teachings you will find the above information true and which in my opinion <u>should</u> be investigated. Parading behind a front of religion and patriotism they could go far before being discovered.

Accept my apology for a long letter but this appeared the only manner in which I could make my point clear. This is all the information I have and for certain reasons I do not wish to d isclose my identity. I hope I am not accusing this organization unjustly whic h would cause you unnecessary investigation, but if they are not a fifth column organization it certainly is a good racket. The pleasure of investigation is yours. Good luck.

Very truly yours,

An American Citizen

FILES DIVISION
FORWARDED
JUL 25 2 46 PM '40
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FILES SECTION
JUN 4 8 26 AM 1940
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

JFP:ESK

62-5894-2 February 28, 1940

(X)

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of January 10, 1940, and its enclosures, consisting of a copy of a letter from Miss Kathryn Kessemer and a copy of an affidavit of Virginia LaFerrera concerning the "I Am" movement.

Copies of the above material were transmitted to Mr. Edward G. Kemp, the Assistant to the Attorney General, who has advised by memorandum that no further investigation of this matter should be made by the Bureau at this time.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

11/24/89 SEARCHED/INDEXED

FILED
FEB 28 1940

# Department of Justice
## Washington

EDWARD G. KEMP
ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 9, 1940

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tour Room
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

With reference to your memorandum of January 18, 1940, transmitting a copy of a letter from Miss Kathryn Messemer of New York City, with reference to the "I Am" movement, please be advised that no further investigation of this matter should be made by the Bureau at this time.

Edward G. Kemp

Edward G. Kemp
Assistant to the Attorney General

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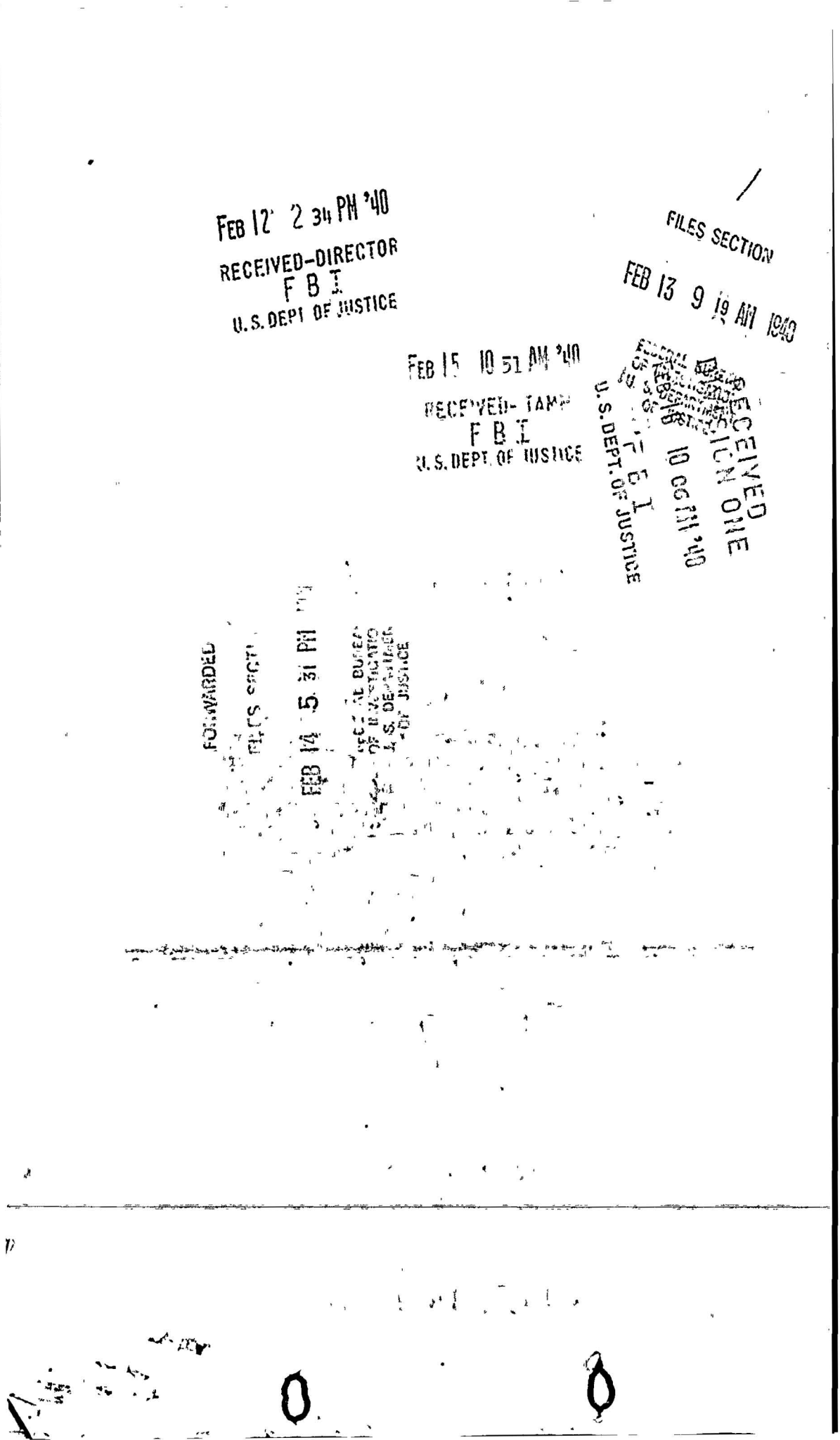
62-56722-181

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
1 FEB 13 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE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OF JUSTICE

JFP,EE

July 13, 1940

RECORDED 62-56722-142

Miss E. Leta Haskins
4111 Stephens Street
San Diego, California

Dear Miss Haskins:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 25, 1940, and the enclosure attached thereto.

It was indeed kind of you to bring this information to my attention and your courtesy and interest in so doing are sincerely appreciated. I am transmitting copies of your letter to Special Agent in Charge R. B. Hood, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, 723 San Diego Trust and Savings Bank Building, San Diego, California. Mr. Hood will have a Special Agent of this Bureau call upon you in the near future for such further information you may be able to furnish in connection with the subject matter of your letter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Barbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Malcolm
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Adm. Files
Pers. Files
Tour Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

cc - San Diego (with two copies of incoming letter - copies of enclosure not forwarded)

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUL 15 1940
P M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(8)

San Deigo, Calif.,

May 25th.'40.

68320

Mr.Edgar J.Hoover,

Washington, D.C.

Letter acks. cc-Sac Los

182

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-56722-182

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION JUN 18 1940

Dear Sir:

In view of the request of the department of Justice as per above clipping, I wish to state the following. About two weeks ago I sat with a friend ( Mrs Delta Hewett) in the private office of De Vorss & Co. publishers in Los Angeles, talking to Douglas K. De Vorss. He handed me a book and said, " That's a pretty job don't you think and just off the press."

The title of the book was "Iam the Destiny of the United States." My mind went back over the past two years and my suspicions in regard to the " I AM Movement " in the United States. Some of their students have drifted to me for help and they have revealed things such as : All one hundred per cent members if married are not to occupy the same room or co-habit with their mates. This strikes at our birth rate. All one hundred per cent students receive a food list from which is stricken all foods they are not to eat. The body building and strength giving foods are stricken from the list. This strikes at the health of our people also gets all their so called students ready to accept privation, that they may use them as tools in case of an over throw. To lessen their physical strength means to lessen their will power therefore more easily handled.

Their salute is similar if not identical with the Nazi salute. They worship St. Germain and that could easily be St. Germany. I firmly believe these people are being blindly led through mass hypnotism toward an un-revealed goal. To cap the climax within the past few days they have closed their meetings to the publi

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FILES SECTION

JUN 1 9 35 AM 1940

FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

# House Votes To Bar Nazis, Reds From WPA

## Relief Plan Gets O.K.; Tips Sought On Fifth Column

WASHINGTON, May 22 (A.P.)—With a rolling volley of "ayes" the house today voted to bar Communists and "Nazi bund" members from WPA rolls, while the justice department suggested that the nation's citizens send in any tips they may have about fifth columns.

The $1,111,754,916 relief bill revised to meet President Roosevelt's requests and to prevent employment of aliens, Communists and Nazi bund members was passed by a 354-to-21 vote and sent to the senate.

WPA FUND WINS

With the Democratic majority in full command, the members approved the President's recommendation for a $975,650,000 WPA fund with permission for him to use it in eight months beginning July 1, rather than to stretch it over the full 12-month period.

The house also indorsed his request for elimination of restrictions against use of WPA funds on big construction projects.

Mindful of reports of the effectiveness of fifth columns abroad, the members accepted without debate an amendment by Rep. Walter (D-Pa) to broaden the prohibition against employment of aliens to include Communists and members of Nazi bund groups.

OTHERS INCLUDED

A little later, Rep. Rich (R-Pa) successfully sponsored an amendment to include in the restrictions any person who advocated the overthrow of the government.

At the last minute, the house brushed aside on a voice vote a demand by Rep. Taber (R-N.Y.) that the administration of relief be turned over to states, counties and municipalities and that the government make grants-in-aid to them.

Also buried by the Democratic majority were proposals by Rep. Collins (D-Miss.) to authorize a new $60,000,000 public building program, and by Rep. Voorhis (D-Calif.) to revive public works administration construction with a $[illegible],000,000 appropriation.

IMMIGRATION SHIFT

Meanwhile a special house committee cleared the way for congressional approval of President Roosevelt's plan to shift the immigration service from the labor department to the justice department, so that authorities may "deal

# Hexing Is Charged In $1,000,000 Suit

CHICAGO, April 8 (I.N.S.)—Black magic of the cult of the "Great I Am" was described today in a $1,000,000 estate suit on file in superior court.

The suit charged that 86-year-old Mrs. Jennie Van Fleet Cowdery, widow of Edward Gilmore Cowdery, utility magnate, has been "hexed" in a realistic way by her daughter and the cult.

Mrs. Corene Cowdery Davison, youngest daughter of the elderly widow, filed the suit against her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baird Willard.

The suit charged Mrs. Cowdery was influenced unduly by claims of cult magic, that she paid upwards of $500 a month on cult demands, and that she was taught to consider her youngest daughter her enemy.

San Diego Union

5/24/40

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DATE 11/26/82 BY SP6 BTD/MW

62-56722-1X2

Best Available Copy

San Francisco, California
June 6, 1940

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

11/24/82 BI SF 88

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter (Bureau file No. 47-17400) dated March 23, 1940, wherein this office was advised that Major MAXWELL KIRBY, United States Army, Retired, The Elk's Club, Sacramento, California, had made inquiries of the Bureau regarding an important operative in the FBI known as K-17.

Major KIRBY was interviewed by Special Agent D. A. FLINN at the above address with respect to the purpose of his inquiry. At the outset it was determined that the inquiry made by Major KIRBY in no way pertained to GEORGE F. ZINN, who in the past has publicized certain closed cases of the Bureau over the radio using the symbol "K-7".

Major KIRBY has been retired from the Army for the past five years and is presently interested in mining in California. Among his many friends here there are some that have become quite interested and active in a fanatical religious and patriotic cult known as "The Great I Am Presence". This cult was originally founded by GUY W. BALLARD, now deceased who wrote under the pen name of GODFREY RAY KING. Since the leaders demise the organization has gone forward under the auspices of his wife, known th the followers as LOTUS RAY KING alias DONNA, and BALLARD'S son. Mrs. BALLARD was formerly affiliated with WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY before her marriage.

This cult, described as a racket by Major KIRBY, besides having their complicated religious beliefs centering around SAINT GERMAIN and the deceased BALLARD also is strongly patriotic. Although Major KIRBY doubts that there has been any actual representation by the leaders that there is a member of their group known to the FBI as "K-17" who is working in close cooperation with the FBI on un-American activities, he does feel that this idea has been put over to the followers by innuendo or suggestion. Major KIRBY bases his belief on the fact that persons affiliated with this group are under the general opinion that the above circumstances are true. At least one person interested in this organization has specifically mentioned this matter to KIRBY. The impression has also been left with this group of people by the leaders that there are members of their group that are working secretly and under cover with the DIES Committee.

62-1 2

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INDEXED

The headquarters of "The Great I Am Presences" is located in Los Angeles, California, and there is an annual meeting held at that point that nets several thousand dollars in contributions for the BALLARDS. In addition to this source of revenue the BALLARDS sell a large number of religious paintings and writings to their followers. The group has continually shunned publicity and has in the past few months made their meetings more or less secret. Major KIRBY feels that this latter factor is due to the fear of the leaders that with publicity they will be exposed as "religious racketeers". In fact, the members are required by oath not to reveal or discuss matters discussed at the meetings.

Major KIRBY appeared to be a very reliable individual and sincere in his inquiry, the purpose of which was to actually determine whether in fact there was an operative in this group known as "X-17" cooperating with the FBI, and was advised in the negative. It was obvious that Major KIRBY considered the leaders of this group as highly unscrupulous in their operations but harmless as a police problem. Finally, Major KIRBY stated that he did not desire to disclose his source of information because of friendship.

On the basis of the above information no further inquiries are being conducted by this office. However, a copy of this communication is being furnished the Los Angeles Field Division for their use and information in the taking of any action authorized by the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

H. J. L. PIEPMI,
Special Agent in Charge

DAF:mjs
cc Los Angeles
47-1343

San Deigo, Calif.,

July 23, '40

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/16/82 BY 388 STP/mg

Mr. J.E.Hoover,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 13th., I will be only too glad to do anything I can to aid you. I have spent my life in trying to be a builder and help others to be the same. Further I have four sons , one who is leaving for camp training on August 4th.,he had a good position but felt it was his duty to go, and joined under age for which Iam willing and this is confidential between you and I.

Iam giving you a general line up as I see it , a carbon copy of this will be mailed to R.B.Hood , Federal B ureau of Investigation , U.S. Dept., of Justice, 728 San Deigo Trust & Savings Bldg. The carbon paper used in this will be destroyed and I want you to know I keep no copies of my letters to you.

In my opinion emotionalism is the seat of all present wars, people who cannot satisfy their material wants develop deep emotional wants, such is the material in which the seed of revolution is sowed by some emotional speaker. Religion, that which deals with man's heart is far more explosive than the latest or greatest material invention of man. H atred instilled in the hearts of a people has a nation licked before the agressor appears. Inner armament is most essential and should be carried on a par with outer armament. The building of the explosive of hatred within man is through influence - influence of his experience in life - influence of his environment and last but not least his reaction to the influence of others upon him.

JUL 30 RECD

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
2 JUL 29 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FIVE

Hitler is , in my opinion a demon evolved through just such circumstance. Born a supersensitive he lived inwardly thrust there by circumstances. He knows how fear is created in another indiv-

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

idual because he watched this emotional happening within himself - therefore he knows how to cripple another nation through fear. He breaks the inward moral of a nation and then strikes the material , the outward. He is as sure of success as the snake that hypnotizes his victim and then strikes.

Hitler , outwardly scorns all religion that he may inwardly use it to further his own purpose of self aggrandizment . His country is not permitted religion because he knows he must keep control of the inner emotions of his people but he has his henchmen operating through the new movements of other countries and the people are trapped before they know it. I earnestly believe the majority of these people are blindly led, that only the heads are fully aware of the purpose of the organization . I wish I could honestly say these people were all of the lower class but I cannot there are all classes and they don't know where they are going. Only a matter of two weeks ago I talked to a prominent business man of Los Angeles who lives in Beverly Hills, he spoke of his wife's friends inducing him to attend a meeting or two of the I AM movement , he thought from what he had seen it was a wonderful order. I talked to him a few moments of the facts of the order , he changed his mind , this man like most successful business men possesses a deep religious sense ; therefore suceptable. (name furnished on request)

I reminded him the audience is obliged to recite a number of mantrams or verses such as , Iam this , Iam that , and etc. then obliged to sing a number of songs of a certain type. This brings through self hypnotism - mass hypnotism of the whole group into one mind from then on they are very easily handled by the speaker. Logic and reason are lost and facts are not accepted , for instance a man who used to work for us, came to my door about three years ago told me he felt terrible and wanted me to help him. I ask what he had been doing the day before - what he had eaten etc., nothing unusual until he came to the evening before. H e said he had conducted an group , that they were "willing " the animals off the earth plane and they must be off by April. Why I asked ? They were lower - they were elemental detrimental to the progress of man. "I would'nt say that I replied.

Few men can equal the devotion of a dog for its master, how about your dog you have one hav'ent you ? He looked startled- he had'nt thought the thing through . Look George your organization did not place the animals here and therefore they cannot remove them . I told him man had listed himself as an animal and so he would have to go also; he was still convinced it could be done . I told him to write the date down and keep it in mind and th then when that date passed and it did not happen he would know by experience that facts were facts and would have to be dealt with. I told him his illness was due to his mental confusion , to stay away from such meetings which he did for his own comfort, but still believed until the date passed. This man is American born of Italian parents (name furnished on request) but there are plenty of full blooded Americans in it.

Most of the things promised by this movement are nothing short of ridiculous but the followers are so hypnotized they can't see it . For instance, in a cave in the heart of Mt. Shasta lie untold amounts of gold and jewels to be used by this movement for all who will follow it. Government rangers have combed the mountainx and found no such caves or entrances thereto and they are following it to the tune of a million or two followers.

A woman came to me (I tried counter emotionalism on this case and it worked) she said her husband was treating her mean. I asked what she had done she replied nothing. I inquired into her interests and found she belonged to the I AM . She waxed eloquent on all it was doing for her and how truly she was following every instruction . She had lived in name only for about a year with her husband . I said, thats fine your getting along grand, your husband is the one that needs help and Iam going to see he gets it , she was quite pleased wanted to know how I would proceed. I told her I would help him get a divorce and the law would stand back of him . She was speechless , she right about faced. This was a year ago, a matter of a month back she told me with shining eyes that she was sure she and her husband were soul mates. Breaking the attraction between mates makes them more easily handled individuals. These are only two cases out of dozens , finally in self-

defence I had to look into the matter, friends joined and wanted me to, to be able to put up a proper argument I had to study the matter. All this time I had not looked upon it as anything dangerous to the nation , I just thought it one of those things that spring up after a depression and as quickly die, but it has'nt turned out that way. Their books are stolen works composed of t the best work of Mary Baker Eddy - of Yogi Ramacharaka and others but mainly they have used a book "The Brother of the Third Degree" by Will Carver. Iam not sure but I believe this book is unavailable from a purchase standpoint, I have one however if one is needed for study. It is a Masonic work printed before the first world warthat proved itself prophetic ; for this reason there was considerable comment on it - how could the author write sonething before it happened, I did not look into it from that standpoint. The main moving character in this book is St. Germain - the main and leading Master of this I AM ORDER is St.Germain. Christ is number two master of the order , that in itself is appalling for it is the breaking up of the foundation of all of our own religious organizations, of the catholic or the christian area. Other leading characters in the book are masters of this I AM order . All have ascended according to them , they assume St. Germain has for there is no historical record that he ever died and none of his burial. The heads of this IAM order are in close communication with these masters at all times and take their directions which they give to their groups from these masters.

They give dates and places of where these masters have appeared on the platform before an audience. These dates , places and happenir have all been traced and found erroneous. They tell of trips and name ships and who were in the parties etc., a tracing of these show no such passenger list. This counter material has been available to these followers and yet they go blindly on. This material and the first set of books are in the library of a friend of mine and can through her be made available to you if you wish. Iam presuming this because the set of books (IAm) were given to her at my suggestic by the first mentioned case . While talking to a hundred percent student two years ago I brought out the fact that they had stolen their material over ex-

isting copyrights . I had expected a denial but did not get it, the reply was , It all comes from the one great mind therefore we have a right to use it. That in itself is revolutionary. This girl, Grace Spencer by name, was a close friend had a brilliant mind, and a daughter of a college professor. We had no unhappy experiences and as far as I know she is still my friend. This will give you some idea of how hypnotized these followers are and when it comes time to strike they will more or less blindly do as they are ordered, as they are in all walks of life it may prove necessary for you to find out the religious interests of men and women holding important positions , having to do with communications and the main ariteries of business.

This movement has regular and frequent broadcasts the source of which could be traced I suppose. In the poorer business districts of Los Angeles these broadcasts can be heard from doorways of shops going full blast. The late Mr. Ballard , the original head of this order, assured his people that when he died he would ascend as these aforementioned masters , that they likewise could do the same. Mr Ballard died a few months back and had to be buried the same as the rest of us, and I have yet to hear of a follower who has done better regardless, his movement continues to grow through the efforts of his wife and son.

In one talk useing logic and reason you can change a communist into a good citizen but this fast rolling snowball needs something else to stop it, . Will be glad to co-operate with your agent in what ever way you see fit, for the protection of my sons and all other mothers sons.

Sincerely Yours,

Mrs E. Leta Hoskins
4111 Stephens St
San Diego.
Calif.

FILES DIVISION
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JUL 25 2 15 PM '40

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Washington, D. C.

July 30, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

Re: I. M. SOCIETY
[redacted] - Informant
ESPIONAGE

b7D

At 10.15 p.m., July 27, 1940, [redacted] telephoned the Washington Field Division and gave the following information:

A woman, name unknown, gave her some literature to read five or six months ago; that this literature was supposedly a patriotic magazine, although many of the articles mentioned changes in government which would be desirable to the people of the United States. [redacted] advised that this magazine had been published by the I. M. Society in California. She further advised that she had read recently that a MR. and MRS. JAMES W. BALLARD had been indicted and successfully prosecuted in California for Mail Fraud, and that this couple were allegedly connected with this society. Thus, she felt that this magazine should be brought to the attention of the Bureau.

[redacted] stated that she had called this Office on numerous occasions concerning "fifth column matters". However, a search of the index failed to reveal this woman's name as well as the name of the I. M. Society.

INDEXED

65-36722

[redacted] said that she was employed with [redacted] and that her husband is a [redacted] She further stated that she would bring the above literature to the Field Office on Monday, July 29, 1940.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Respectfully submitted,

FIVE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

DATE 12/9/82 BY SP8BE/mg

ALAN F. DAVIS
Special Agent

AFD:LFC
65-0
CC: BUREAU
RICHMOND

No investigation will be conducted in this matter unless requested by the Bureau.

Denver, Colorado,
August, 20th, 1940.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/26/82 BY

J.Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:-

I am writing to you to register my protest against the indictment of Mrs. G. W. Ballard and Son Donald in the LosAngeles Federal Court and ask you as a Servant of the people, to make every effort you can to see that Justice is given in the trial of this case.

This case involves not only un-warranted charges against the Ballards but threatens our rights under the Constitution, that of religious freedom.

Any honest investigation into the activity of the " I AM " brought forth through the Ballards, will prove that the instructions are not only constructive but thoroughly AMERICAN.

As to the charge against them for wrongfully obtaining money I want to say that, as a student of the " I AM " I have attended many of the Ballard classes and regularly the groups in Denver and NEVER have I heard the Ballards, any of their staff, or any group leader of this activity anywhere, ask for money: neither have I ever received any request for money from anyone connected with this activity either through the mail or otherwise.

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62-56722-4
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 26 1940
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

America needs more loyal Americans, and any activity that brings this about should be encouraged and not persecuted. It seems incredible to me that an action should be brought against this activity while such activities as Communism are permitted to spread their propaganda through the mails, radio, news-papers, and other channels. No honest American can say that the teachings of Communism are either constructive or American. Then in the interest of America, would it not be far better to devote the time, money, and energy now used in persecuting those who stand one hundred percent for America towards cleaning our America of all that is Un-American.

In selection of a jury for the trial of this case it is important that it be devoid of Communists or members of other Un-American activities, and in this I ask your assistance. Thank you and may God Bless you.

Very Respectfully Yours.,

Dr. A. E. Strong

404 Commonwealth Bldg'
Denver, Colorado.

AUG 28 RECD

FILES DIVISION
RECEIVED
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F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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DEPT OF JUSTICE

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

(4)

62-56722-2
AMT:AJ

August 8, 1940

RECORDED

Mrs. E. Leta Hoskins
4111 Stephens Street
San Diego, California

Dear Mrs. Hoskins:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 23, 1940, and to express appreciation for the interest you have displayed.

You may be assured that the content of your communication has been noted and will receive appropriate attention.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

11/26/82 SP8BST/ws

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 9 1940
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AMT

J. C. Reynolds
1340 Grant St.
Denver, Colorado,

DENVER
AUG 22
1 5 PM
1940.
COLO.

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
3 cents 3

The Hon. J. Edgar Hoover - F. B. I.

Washington D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/21/98 BY SP2 STP/MLK

1360 Grant St.
Denver. Colorado.

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover.
F.B.I. Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

I emphatically protest against the injustice of the indictment against Mrs. G. W. Ballard & her son Donald Ballard in the Federal courts in Los Angeles.

Our constitution & the bill of rights give the citizens of the U.S. America, the right to worship God as their hearts dictate, and also seek any form of Education he or she desires.

I therefore request that you, as a servant of the people use your influence to protect that freedom and liberty "which is ours" for which our forefathers gave their lives and fortune".

In my judgement, whosoever condemns them, helps to rob us of our liberty justice & freedom. America must remain the land of the free and home of the brave.

I trust that you are one of our true, loyal Americans, and may God bless you as such, and our blessed America too.

Yours Sincerely JULIA C. REYNOLDS.
Julia C. Reynolds.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE [illegible] BY [illegible]

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-5
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 AUG 26 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FIVE

AUG 29 RECD

I Am movement

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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F B I
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

EWT:DMM
RECORDED 62-56722-4

August 30, 1940

Dr. A. E. Strong
404 Commonwealth Building
Denver, Colorado

Dear Dr. Strong:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 20, 1940.

I have noted with interest the content of your communication, and you may be assured this information is being made a part of the official files of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Needon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 31 1940
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RETAINED
AUG 30 5 PM

MR EDGAR HOOVER
F.B.I. LEADER
WASHINGTON D. C.







the Streamliner
CITY OF DENVER

Mrs J. B. Miller
515 S0 Race St
Denver, Colorado

Mr Edgar Hoover
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr Hoover:

I believe the indictment against Mrs G. W. Ballard and her son Donald Ballard is unjust and unfair, according to the Constitunional Rights of every American Citizen, which gives us free religious rights and the privelege of choosing our education where we please.

Harry Bridges, Jerry Bryan and others send their communistic literature thru the mail to tear down and disrupt our Governmentand they have not been interfered with, so surely anyone who has the courage to stand in, with and for OUR BLESSED UNITED STATES OF AMERICA should be given every assistance by our Government which is a Government of the people, by the people and FOR the People.

There is never a charge made for this instruction as all is a glad free gift of love. All have free will and it is not dominated or interfered with by this activity or those who carry this "LIGHT"

We bless and ask for your eternal protection and as a servant of the people I KNOW you wish to see Divine Justice given to every American Citizen.

Very Truly Yours

Mrs J. B. Miller

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/16/76 BY SP8 BAW/4

AUG 31 RECD

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-56722-6

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 AUG 29 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FIVE

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F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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[illegible] JUSTICE

AUG 30 4 45 PM '40
RECEIVED-CLERK

EWT:hn

RECORDED 62-56722-5

August 31, 1940

Miss Julia C. Reynolds
1340 Grant Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Miss Reynolds:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter postmarked August 22, 1940.

Your courtesy and interest in writing me as you did are indeed appreciated. You may be assured your comments have been given careful attention, and are being made a part of the official files of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

11/20/68

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Needon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ AUG 31 1940 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

3

August 24, 1940.

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, District of Columbia

Dear Sir:

As an American citizen and voter, I am writing you in the interest of many thousands of Americans, who have for the past five years endeavored to serve America in a non-heralded way, but sincerely expressing a loyalty to our flag and its ideals.

It is pertaining to one of the particular rights of an American regarding which I wish to write. It is that of mine and other Americans' constitutional rights to worship as their heart dictates, and also to derive their education from that source which they feel is right.

May I quote from a recent issue of a Denver paper, an Associated Press article written from Estes Park, Colorado, August 8:

"William Allen White, widely known Kansas editor, considers the Constitution of the United States a 'great religious document in the highest sense.'

"White declared the first 'evidence of the tyrant in this country will be the striking at religious freedom.'"

I refer to the matter of the indictment against Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Ballard and son, Donald, Messengers of the Ascended Masters, who have carried to the American people the Law of Life, based on the creative word "I am." I declare as a student of this activity, that it is entirely free from political, commercial, or self-gain; and is a selfless movement in the interest of all mankind as well as the student body itself.

I appeal to you as an American representative of the American people and one pledged to see by the power invested in your office to see that the American people are fairly represented and given the guarantees of our constitution and the Declaration of Independence; and I do feel that calling this to your attention is well-sufficient information to prompt you to use your influence to see that justice for all concerned is given.

I wish my words could express my appreciation for what you will do in this matter.

I am sincerely,

M. F. Youngquist
618-[illegible] St.
Denver, Colo.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11-22-2011 BY [illegible]

RECORDED & INDEXED
62-56722-1
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
4 AUG 29 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

No Record
M.F. Youngquist
See 62-56722
Sept. 4, '40
LD.

Reply
9-7-40

U. S. DEPT. OF

FILES DIVISION
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AUG 30 5 47 PM '40

F. B. I.
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FILES SECTION
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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECORDED EMT:hn 62-56722-6

September 5, 1940

Mrs. J. B. Miller
515 South Race Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mrs. Miller:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter postmarked August 26, 1940.

Your interest in writing me as you did is indeed appreciated, and your kind comments are indeed gratifying.

The content of your letter has been given careful attention and is being made a part of the official files of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Nease
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ SEP 5 1940 ★
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1447 Washington Street,
Denver, Colorado,
August 23, 1940.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Board of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

I am sending my plea to you against the indictment against Mrs. G. W. Ballard and son, Donald, in the Federal Courts of Los Angeles, who as citizens of the United States of America,- and real Americans they are too, maintain the right to worship God as their hearts dictate, and maintain the right to conduct the form of education they are rendering in the Divine way of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. They give out nothing that is against the Constitution of our Government.

Therefore, I request of you, as a servant of the people, you see that justice and the power of right selection is given them in the courts. That the jury be an all-American jury.

If the material of the Communists, Nazis, Atheists and others go through the mails, which is to tear down and destroy our America and our people, how can they indict Mrs. Ballard and son, who give out only constructive teaching for our America.

Thank you,

Mrs Ann Relihan.
MRS. ANN RELIHAN

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/16/76 BY SP2 AJM
RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-8
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
4 AUG 31 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ONE FIVE

9-12-40 SEP 10 RECD

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECORDED JUL 1940 62-5572-7

September 7, 1940

Mr. H. F. Youngquist
618 14th Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. Youngquist:

In the absence of Mr. Hoover, your communication dated August 24, 1940, has been received. I know that Mr. Hoover will appreciate having your views and observations, and the contents of your letter will be called to his attention upon his return to the City.

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy
Secretary

INDEXED

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ SEP 9 1940 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Rte 1, Box 179
Portland, Oregon
August 30, 1940

Mr. John Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D.C.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-9
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
1 SEP 3 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILED

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The "I Am" Activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands running into millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been arousing the American people into action to sweep out of our country Communism, Fascism, Nazism, the Fifth Columns and all subversive activities and to sustain our form of government in its original form.

"O America! Precious Jewel in the crown, the diadem of earth, that Flower of Ancient Wisdom and Light! again you shall come into the power of your full bloom in spite of all the seeming obstructions and appearances to the contrary at present." (The "I Am" Discourses, Page 293.)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/26/50 BY SP8 [illegible]

SEP 4 RECD

God Bless You
(miss) Eunice Johnson
EUNICE JOHNSON

ack
9/11/40
amt

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

September 12, 1940

EWT:JB
RECORDED 62-56722-8

Mrs. Ann Relihan
1447 Washington Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mrs. Relihan:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated August 23, 1940.

Your courtesy in writing me as you did is appreciated, and your comments are being made a part of the official files of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Reddon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ SEP 13 1940 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Rt 11 Box 79
Portland Oregon.
Aug. 30, 1940

J. Edgar Hoover
F.B.I.
Washington D.C.

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-56722-10
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
1. SEP 3 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FIVE

Dear Sir — The "I Am" Activity is a national and intense patriotic activity. Thousands running into millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been arousing the American people into action to sweep out of our country Communism, Fascism, Naziism, the Fift Column and all subversive activities and to sustain our form of government in its origal form.

"O America! Precious Jewel in the crown, the diadem of earth, the Flower of Ancient Wisdom and Light! again you shall come into the ~~full bloom~~ power of your full bloom in spite of all the seeming obstructions and appearances to the contrary at present. (The "I Am" Discourses) page 293

God Bless you
I am an American
(Mrs.) Ella Johnson
MRS. ELLA JOHNSON

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE ... BY ...
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9/6/40

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

September 11, 1940

EWT:JB
RECORDED 62-56722-9

Miss Eunice Johnson
R. F. D. Route 11, Box 179
Portland, Oregon

Dear Miss Johnson:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated August 30, 1940.

This information has been given careful attention and is being made a matter of official record of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

4/26/68 BY SP3 [illegible]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ SEP 11 1940 ★
P M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Inspector

ANONYMOUS ... KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

Aug. 30. 1940.
Portland. Oregon

J. Edgar Hoover.
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir;-

The "I AM" Activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands running into millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been arousing the American people into action to sweep out of our country communism, Fascism, Naziism, the Fifth Column and all subversive activities and to sustain our form of government in its original form.

"O America! Precious Jewel in the crown, the diadem of earth, that Flower of Ancient Wisdom and Light! again you shall come into the power of your full bloom in spite of all the seeming obstructions and appearances to the contrary at Present."

(The "I AM" Discourses, Page 293)

God Bless You,

B. B. ALLEN
B. B. Allen
8324 N. Central St.,
Portland,
Oregon.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1/4/62 BY [illegible]

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-[illegible]
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGAT[ION]
5 SEP 3 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTIC[E]
FIVE

ack 9/6/40 Gmt

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

EWT:MM
RECORDED 62-56722-10 September 6, 1940

Mrs. Ella Johnson
Rural Free Delivery
Route 11, Box 179
Portland, Oregon

Dear Miss Johnson:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 30, 1940.

The content of your letter has been noted with interest and your comments are being made a part of the official files of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SEP 6 6 10 PM 1940
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/16/82 BY SP2 BAW/rs

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Keadon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ SEP 7 1940 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Inspector

Denver, Colorado,
August, 26, 1940

J. Edgar Hoover,
Bureau of Investigation,
Justice Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:-

I am here-by voicing my protest concerning a recent indictment returned by the Federal Grand Jury at LosAngeles, against Mrs. G.W. Ballard and Son Donald Ballard which charges them with fraud in the use of the mails. I appeal to you as a Servant of the people to give your assistance in any way you can for I feel that it means the future restrictions to freedom of speech which is guaranteed to us by the Constitution of the United States with respect to religious education, which the Ballards have brought forth.

I have attended many Ballard classes of the " I AM " activities and also the classes in Denver and have NEVER been solicited for money by mail or otherwise.

A careful and vigorious investigation into the " I AM " activity will determine the fact that it is constructive and thoroughly American and has done much for the up-building and protection of America and her people. It seems appalling that such an activity that stands one hundred percent for America should be persecuted when such activities as Communism use the mails to spread their propaganda which every true American knows is not constructive and is not in accord with our Constitution.

I sincerely request your assistance in the selection of a jury in this case, that it be composed of true Americans and purged from Communists or other Un-American activities. Thank you and may God Bless you.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-122

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

4 SEP 3 1940

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very respectfully yours,

1241 Lincoln Street,
Denver, Colorado.

SEP 5 RECD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/26/80 BY SP2 AJB

9/6/40

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DEPT OF JUSTICE

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FILES DIVISION
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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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RECEIVED-CLEGG
F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

EWT:MM

RECORDED 62-56722-12

September 6, 1940

Mr. H. V. Fetton
1241 Lincoln Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. Fetton:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 26, 1940.

The content of your letter has been noted with interest and your comments are being made a part of the official files of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ SEP 6 1940 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Headon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

EWT:MM
RECORDED 62-56722-11

September 6, 1940

Mr. B. B. Allen
8324 North Central Street
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Allen:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 30, 1940.

The content of your letter has been noted with interest and your comments are being made a part of the official files of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/26/82 BY SP5 AD/ms

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ SEP 6 1940 ★
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Transfer to [illegible]

5

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.
SEP 3
1130PM
1940

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/20/07 BY SP2 [illegible]

SEP 5 9 27 AM '40
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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
SEP 5 8 53 AM '40
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FORWARDED

F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
SEP 3 11 30 AM '40
FILES DIVISION
RECEIVED

I Am Movement
Mrs. H. W. Ballard

Stockton Calif
Aug 28-1940

RECORDED
INDEXED

62-3622-13
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 SEP 3 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Dear Mr. Hoover

As a Loyal American Citizen and in the light of my Constitutional Rights to Friendship God as my heart dictates, I wish to call your attention to the Federal Indictment against the "I Am Activity" set for Sept 9th at Los Angeles California. Under the "I Am Activity" I have found my heart's desire to understand and worship God. And the Reality of Life is correctly understood all manifestations that seem miraculous to true present consciousness, is found to be just as natural and normal

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE BY [illegible]
DATE [illegible]

Ack 9-9-40 Cmt.

SEP 5 KCW

an experience as the forming of words are to one who has learned the use of the alphabet. No matter how strange, unusual and impossible an experience seems to humanity's present mental state, it is no proof that there is not a Greater Law and a Wiser Intelligence acting to produce greater wonders of Creation surrounding us all of the time. The knowledge of the greatest minds of humanity in the outer world today, is to this Great Inner Wisdom and Power, as the understanding of a small child is to the study of Calculus.

So how in the world can any one say that Saint Germain and His Instructions are not true. Sincerely, KATHRYN MURRAY

Kathryn Murray

Los Angeles 6711 S. Coronado St.

San Diego, Calif.,

August 17th. '40.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-5516722

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 SEP 6 1940

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. J.E. Hoover,

Dear Sir:

Chief Justice Hughes of the United States Supreme Court a member of I AM Movement. Feel you should know this before case comes into court as publicity of this sort would prove injurious both here and abroad.

This must be the mighty I AM Presence she expects to save her. This information came to my notice a week ago but I was dubious about sending such information to you in Washington. Your letter of August the eighth received, thank you.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/26/02 BY SP8K1/sb

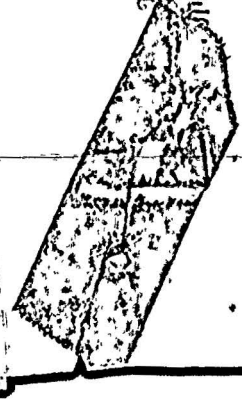
Respectfully,

E. Leta Hoskins

E. LETA HOSKINS

SEP 5 RECD

FILES DIVISION
FORWARDED
SEP 6 3 06 PM '40
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE



EWT:MM
RECORDED 62-56722-13

September 9, 1940

Mrs. Kathryn Murray
671 South Coronado Street
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mrs. Murray:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 23, 1940.

The content of your letter has been noted with interest and your comments are being made a part of the official files of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

11/26/62 SEP 8 PM 3

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ SEP 10 1940 ★
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

47

Inadequate 37

Justice

August 9, 1940

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION
MM Watson
Secretary to the President

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Roosevelt:

When you were sworn into the office of President of these United States, you took an oath before your own God to uphold the Constitution to the best of your ability.

Therefore, when injustice is being perpetrated through our Federal Courts, I write you as one loyal and patriotic citizen to another to ask you to investigate the accusations made against the "I AM" leaders here in Los Angeles.

I am an "I AM" student and I know these leaders have never asked anyone for money or defrauded anyone of anything. They have taught our people more love for our United States of America than any other activity in our land. They have and are standing for her protection with all they are and have and so are we.

When such individuals as Earl Browder and Harry Bridges and the Communist party can send subversive material through the United States mails, then certainly I am sure you will want to investigate for yourself a charge such as this one.

With blessings to you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Margery T. Aldridge

Margery T. Aldridge
315 Sierra Boulevard
Roseville, California

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/93 BY SP8 BSB/mx

62-56722-1
RECORDED & INDEXED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 SEP 5 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SEP 7 RECD

FIVE

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SEP 4 5 01 PM '40

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FILES DIVISION
FORWARDED

SEP 6 11 40 AM '40

F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

EWT:MM September 16, 1940

RECORDED 62-56722-14

Miss E. Leta Hoskins
4111 Stephens Street
San Diego, California

Dear Miss Hoskins:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated August 17, 1940.

The content of your communication has been noted and will receive appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ SEP 16 1940 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED EWT:MM
62-56722-14

September 16, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
MR. MATTHEW F. McGUIRE

I am transmitting herewith for your information copies of a communication received at this Bureau from Miss E. Leta Hoskins, San Diego, California.

This correspondent has previously written at great length concerning the "I Am" organization and her letters have been formally acknowledged although no information of interest to this Bureau has been received.

This letter has been acknowledged and the correspondent has not been advised of any reference.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Headon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
SEP 16 1940
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EWT:MM
~~100-0-181~~ August 30, 1940

62-56722-16

RECORDED

Miss Clara R. Braasch
1340 Cherokee Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Miss Braasch:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 16, 1940.

The content of your communication has been carefully noted and is being made a part of the official files of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/82 BY SP6BJO/ms

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Candy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 31 1940
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Denver, Colo.
I340 Cherokee St.
Aug. I6th, I940

J. Edgar Hoover

Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/21/82 BY SP6C6/mg

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I emphatically protest against the injustice of the indictment against Mrs. G. W. Ballard and son Donald in DALLAS the Federal Courts in Los Angeles.

Our Constitution and the Bill of Rights gave the citizens of the U. S. of America the right to Worship God as their hearts dictate and also seek any form of Education he or she desires.

I therefore request that you, as a servant of the people use your influence to protect that freedom and liberty which is ours. (For which our forefathers gave their lives and fortunes.)

In my judgement, who so ever condems the Ballards helps to rob us of our liberty, justice, and freedom. America must remain the land of the free and the home of the brave.

I trust you are one of our true loyal Americans and May God bless you as such, and our beloved America too.

Sincerely,

Clara R. Branch

CLARA R BRANSCH

62-56722-16
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 AUG 22 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RECORDED & INDEXED
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AUG 22 07 PM '40

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

F.B.I.
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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RECEIVED-CLEGG
F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Rt 11 Box 179
Portland Oregon
Sept. 3, 1940

Mr. J Edgar Hoover
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir— The "I Am" activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands running into millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been arousing the American people into action to sweep out of our country communism, Fascism, Nazism and all subversive activities and to sustain our form of government in its original form.

"The net that the sinister force of earth has planned to draw America into, will get find the "Sword of Truth & Light" across the net each way, making of it the Open-Ended Cross of Freedom, Right and Justice." ("I Am" Discourses page 294)

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-17

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 10 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/29/82 BY SP6BCW/mc

God Bless You

Ella Johnson
ELLA JOHNSON

Ack 9/19/40 Cmt.

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

SEP 12 8 28 AM '40
RECEIVED-CLEGG
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice
1200 Tower Petroleum Bldg.,
Dallas, Texas

August 27, 1940

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/93 BY SP2 BJ/mg

Special Agent in Charge,
Houston, Texas

RE: "I AM";
INTERNAL SECURITY

Dear Sir:

There are enclosed herewith a letter from Post Office Inspector in Charge F. L. CLAMITT, Fort Worth, Texas, to the Dallas Field Division dated August 14, 1940, a book entitled "Special I AM Decrees", and a part of the PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER for August 11, 1940.

No acknowledgement of the letter from Mr. CLAMITT has been made by the Dallas Field Division. Since the subject matter is for your field division, no action is being taken by the Dallas Office.

Very truly yours,

JMC-dfmc
100-0-
cc- Bureau

E. E. CONROY,
Special Agent in Charge.

INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
3 AUG 30 1940
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILED

RECORDED EWT:MM
62-56722-17

September 19, 1940

Miss Ella Johnson
Rural Free Delivery
Route 11, Box 179
Portland, Oregon

DATE 11/29/80 BY SP8880/ng

Dear Miss Johnson:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated September 3, 1940.

Your courtesy in writing to me as you did is indeed appreciated and you may be assured that your letter has been given careful attention.

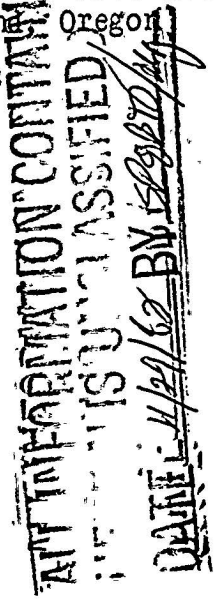
Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ SEP 19 1940 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

8318 S.E. 13th Ave.
Portland, Oregon



Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C.

8318 S. E. 13th Avenue
Portland, Oregon
September 5, 1940

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION

Dear Sir:

The "I AM" Activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands, running into millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been arousing the American people into action to sweep out of our county Communism, Fascism, Nazism, the Fifth Column and all subversive activities and to sustain our form of government in its original form.

"O America! Precious Jewel in the crown, the diadem of earth, that Flower of Ancient Wisdom and Light! again you shall come into the power of your full bloom in spite of all the seeming obstructions and appearances to the contrary at present." (The "I AM" Discourses, Page 293.)

God Bless You,

Sisters and Brothers

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/82 BY SP4 BTJ/mg

62-56722-18

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F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JEN:AI

RECORDED 62-57722-18X

August 22, 1940

Honorable Sheridan Downey
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/29/82 BY SP3BTC/mg

My dear Senator:

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 16, 1940, in which you enclosed a communication received from Mrs. Meda Abbott, 1329 West Fifth Street, Los Angeles, California.

Please be advised that this Bureau did not conduct any investigation in connection with the "I Am" organization, and I am therefore unable to comment thereon or to supply you with any information in regard thereto. It appears from certain news releases that this case was investigated by the Post Office Department, and you may therefore desire to correspond with The Honorable, The Postmaster General, Washington, D. C., in connection therewith.

In harmony with your request, Mrs. Abbott's letter is being returned to you herewith.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 23 1940
P M
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AUG 22 5-42 PM '40
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Headon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MORRIS SHEPPARD, TEX., CHAIRMAN
ROBERT R. REYNOLDS, N. C.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
SHERMAN MINTON, IND.
EDWIN C. JOHNSON, COLO.
JOSH LEE, OKLA.
HARRY H. SCHWARTZ, WYO.
ERNEST LUNDEEN, MINN.
LISTER HILL, ALA.
SHERIDAN DOWNEY, CALIF.
JAMES M. SLATTERY, ILL.
ALBERT B. CHANDLER, KY.
WILLIAM H. SMATHERS, N. J.
WARREN R. AUSTIN, VT.
STYLES BRIDGES, N. H.
CHAN GURNEY, S. DAK.
RUFUS C. HOLMAN, OREG.
JOHN THOMAS, IDAHO

VICTOR RUSSELL, CLERK
W. I. SMALLEY, ASST. CLERK

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

August 16, 1940

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am herewith forwarding you a letter which I have just received from Mrs. Meda Abbott, 1329 West Fifth Street, Los Angeles, California.

The return of Mrs. Abbott's letter, along with your views and comments thereon, will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

SHERIDAN DOWNEY

ENCL 6

SD/mr
Enclosure

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-18X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 AUG 28 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Aug 19 2 20 PM '40
RECEIVED-TAMPA
F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Copy - mmc

1329 West Fifth Street
Los Angeles, California

August 5, 1940

Sen. Sheridan Downey
United States Senator
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I feel confident that you, as one pledged by oath to support the Constitution, will want to investigate the charges made by Federal authorities against the religious organization, the "I AM" Activity, of using the mails to defraud. To my knowledge and that of all with whom I have talked, who have been in the organization since its very inception, the leaders of this thoroughly patriotic and educational (rather than religious) movement, have never asked for a nickel from any of their followers, which is quite contrary to the practices of most organizations of any kind whatsoever!

But be that as it may, I presume the case hinges altogether upon the proof that the teachings of the "I AM" Activity are fraudulent, and I wish to ask you whether any religious teaching can be proved, except in the living of it. Furthermore, is it not unconstitutional to require any religious body to prove the validity of their tenets? Could you prove in a court of law that is, give legal evidence - that your religious beliefs, whatever they may be, are true? And by the same token, could those very gentlemen who have made the charge and indictment and presume to try this case, prove that their religious beliefs are not fraudulent?

Does not our Constitution guarantee the right of religious belief to every individual, the right to peaceable assembly to promulgate those beliefs, the freedom of the press to print and disseminate by printed word those teachings, and the right of free enterprise, whereby they may present such printed matter for sale? Do not other religious exercise these same rights without question by the government, using the mails likewise to distribute their books, magazines and other paraphernalia, without having to prove the validity of their tenets to the representatives of the government?

Have not officials in our government so rigidly adhered to these principles as to permit even enemies of our government to exercise these rights, even to the avowed purpose of overthrowing the very government that gives them those rights and protects them in the exercise of them? And has not their literature enjoyed the freedom of the United States mails, permitting them to disseminate freely their teachings and even solicit funds for their "cause"?

No one is forced to buy the books of the "I AM" Activity--the people who claim to be defrauded by the teachings bought them of their own free will. And many of them have doubtless likewise been disappointed in purchases they have made as a result of advertising claims, but unless they can prove that

DATE: 4/29/52 DSTB BDM

62-56722-18X

they followed directions accurately, they could not sue for fraud. Can they prove in this case that they followed the instructions, and even if they could prove it, would a few years' test, without once slipping, be sufficient to overcome many years and many previous lifetimes' of wrong living! The same people might claim the Bible to be a fraud too, because they themselves had not lived up to it, or because it makes claims they cannot prove, or that it contradicts itself! They must have found the Bible unsatisfactory, or whatever religion they followed heretofore, or if none, then their own way of life! else they would not have been seeking another way of life. Yet the bible is sold thru the mails, and none can prove that it is true.

In fact, no religion can be proved except in the living of it, and then only to the person who lives it - the proof cannot be transmitted to another, by legal nor any other process. How then can a case like this be put on trial? By what constitutional right can any religious order to required to submit evidence of the validity of its tenets? Faith is the evidence of things not seen, to use a Bible statement. And how can the testimony of witnesses be acceptable, when they cannot prove that they lived up to the teachings? And most of all, how can those Federal authorities who presume to try the case pass judgment on a religion which they themselves have never practiced, therefore they would know the least about it, and when they could not even prove that their own beliefs are not fraudulent, if required to submit legal or any other evidence!

There are thousands of books in the public libraries, and for sale in bookstores and direct from publishers, that are mailed on request and on receipt of the stated price, which teach many of the same great universal laws as those on which the teachings of the "I AM" Activity are based, yet they are not required to produce evidence that their teachings are valid. As a student myself of the inner, esoteric doctrines of all the great religions of the past, including the Christian and the Masonic, I am convinced by very reason alone, aside from all emotional feeling, that the "I AM" teachings are not only within the realm of possibility but fulfill the very claims of other esoteric teachings, as a study of those doctrines points to the fact that a new advanced teaching must be given at this time under the cyclic laws. Reason alone convinces one that even Jesus, Great and Perfect and All-Wise as He was, was limited in what He could reveal because of the ignorance of the people at that time - they were ignorant of the very geography of the world, to say nothing of all the discoveries relating to the vast universe with which our spinning globe is surrounded, and our otherwise greatly widened knowledge since Jesus walked that tiny sector of our single globe, and taught as much - and more than his hearers could understand and follow!

Moreover, the "I AM" Activity, well knowing the purpose for which our Constitution was founded (there was none other on earth like it at the time, instead it has served as a model for others since), and the destiny for which our country was founded, are perhaps the most loyal of all organizations in the support of that Constitution and the most active in definitely working to bring that destiny to its fulfillment. They stand by all who stand by

the Constitution and the true ideals of America.

And that Constitution which they have always supported so loyally, certainly is their defense now, for it guarantees to the "I AM" Activity as well as to all religions, the freedom to found, and to continue with, their teachings. And I feel sure that you likewise who are pledged to support that Constitution which guarantees to you the same rights, will want to see that the rights of others are equally protected - "Equal justice under law".

Thanking you for your investigation into these charges, and for your support of the constitutional rights of all citizens equally, I remain

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Meda Abbott

EWT:MM

August 30, 1940

62-54722-19

Dr. Edward P. Stoute
1204 Logan Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Dr. Stoute:

I wish to acknowledge your letter dated August 19, 1940.

I am gratified to note your expressions of esteem concerning the operation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and you may be assured that we will make every effort to be worthy of your approval.

The content of your communication has been given careful consideration and is being made a part of the official files of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/26/92 BY SP6B3/mlf

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Headon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carter

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ AUG 31 1940 ★
P M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AUG 30 5 46 PM
RECEIVED-FBI

1204 Logan St
Denver Colo
Aug 19th 1940

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Chief Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/21/82 BY SP2 BD/mp

Dear Sir

It is with a profound admiration, and respect for the Fearless and efficient manner you conduct your Department and with a deep sence of Justice that I Write you, voicing a protest against the unjust indictment recently returned against Mrs G. W. Ballard, Donald Ballard, and those who are associated with Them, by the Courts of the State of California.

Mrs G. W. Ballard
Donald Ballard

62-56722-19
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
2 AUG 22 1940
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECORDED & INDEXED
AUG 23 1940

I do not believe it necessary for me to go into Subversive, and Un-American activities in this Country, because you are in a position to obtain all the evidence necessary to prosecute those found to be the instigators of Anti-American activities.

8/30/40

AUG 23 10 00 AM '40
RECEIVED-CLEGG
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

that would in any manner prove harmful to any American Institutions, Industries or in any way Contrary to the Principles of Freedom Equality and Justice.

Certain activities of a subversive nature in California has come before the Public in the Press and some investigations are being Conducted in the interest of Justice. One of the most flagrant violators and trouble makers in that Section has been one Harry Bridges. Any of the Revolutionary actions with Harry Bridges which he has been Connected has been enough to Deport him.

Under the Department of Commerce he has been protected, and continued in his attempts thru strikes, tie ups of industries, and other means to destroy the Morale of this Country hoping to establish a Dictatorship in this Country and become one of the ruling forces

I have had the priveledge of attending thirty-four Classes Conducted by Mr and Mrs G. W. Ballard in Los Angeles and about the same number Conducted by their Associates

in many of the Big Cities of our Country.

I can truthfully state under oath that at no time was there ever any Soliciting of funds, nor were there ever a Charge made for any of the Classes, nor were the Collection plates passed around. Neither from the platform or in private was there ever one word said against this Country, any of its officials or its people.

Funds for Un American activities are being demanded by those trying to tear down this Country and much of the money which is being Spent comes from those European Countries who to day are in the throes of a Bloody War and to be used for distructive intent.

I trust Sir in the interest of Justice you will use your Power, and Influence to see this indictment against Mrs G. W. Ballard, Her Son and those associated with Her Squashed and full Indemnation of any Wrong be given them.

... Star of Service Dram, I believe in the principles and teachings of the Master Jesus, My life is one of Service to My Country America, and the Precepts for which She Stands.

Very truly yours
Edward P. Stoute D.M.D

Edward P. Stoute

FILES DIVISION
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AUG 22 12 06 PM '40

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

E.T:hn
~~61-7559-10279~~
62-56722-19X

September 12, 1940

Miss Roberta Ericson
8318 Southeast 13th Avenue
Portland, Oregon

Dear Miss Ericson:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated September 5, 1940.

Your courtesy in writing me as you did is indeed appreciated, and your comments are being made a part of the official files of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/93 BY SP8 BAW/ks

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ SEP 13 1940 ★
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 12 5 01 PM '40

ET

8318 S.E. 13th Avenue
Portland, Oregon
September 5, 1940

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-56722-19

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 SEP 7 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FIVE

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The "I Am" Activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands running into millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been arousing the American people into action to sweep out of our country Communism, Fascism, Nazism, the Fifth Column and all subversive activities and to sustain our Constitutional government and always keep America ever the precious Jewel in the crown, the diadem of earth,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/83 BY SP8BT/mg

SEP 10 RECD

T. APP. G. P.

ave. 9/12/40

that I Laiveth of Ancient Wisdom and Light! again you shall come into the power of your full bloom in spite of all the seeming obstructions and appearances to the contrary at present." ("The I AM" Discourses, page 293)

God Bless You,

(Miss) Roberta Ericson.

MISS ROBERTA ERICSON

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SEP 7 9 PM '40

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

SEP 9 3 54 PM '40
RECEIVED-CLEGG
F. B. I.
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

0

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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1308 So. Sherman St.
Denver, Colo.
Sept. 12, 1940

62-56722-20
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
4 SEP 16 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FBI... J. Edgar Hoover
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

The "I Am" Activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands running into millions are interested. Since 1933, it has been arousing the American people into action to sweep out of our country Communism, Fascism, Nazism, the Fifth Column and all subversive activities and to sustain our form of government in its original form.

"O America! Precious Jewel in the crown, the diadem of earth, that Flower of Ancient Wisdom and Light! again you shall come into the power of your full bloom in spite of all seeming obstructions and appearances to the contrary at present.
(The "I Am" Discourses, page 293.)

God Bless You

SEP 18 RECD

Mrs Katherine Eggs

Mrs. Katherine Eggs

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Rt 11, Box 179 Portland Oregon

Sept. 12, 1940

J Edgar Hoover

Washington D.C.

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Dear Sir: (I Am) Activity

The "I AM" Activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands running into millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been arousing the American people into action to sweep out of our country Communism, Fascism, Nazism, Fifth Column and all subversive activities and to sustain our government in its original form.

"America is the 'Grail' — 'The Cup' for the earth, that carries the Light of the Cosmic Christ which shall illumine the earth, and set it in Divine Order, by the Power of the 'Mighty I Am Presence.'" (Magic Presence page 134)

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62-56722-2
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 SEP 17 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

God Bless You

Mrs. Ella Johnson

Mrs Ella Johnson

No answer

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OUTSIDE AGENCIES TO BE NOTIFIED:

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( ) AID
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Army ( )ACSI ( )Other
( ) BATF ( ) Bu Prisons
( ) [redacted] ( ) CAB b7E
( ) OPM ( ) Customs
( ) DEA ( ) DIA
DOJ ( ) Criminal Div.
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( ) FAA
( ) USSS
( ) VISTA
( ) Bufiles ( ) Others

Copy

FBI/DOJ

P. O. Box 631
Los Angeles, California
September 9, 1940

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Post Office Inspector
United States Post Office Department
Los Angeles, California

Re: MRS. G. W. BALLARD;
ET AL
Impersonation.

Dear Sir:

There are being inclosed herewith two letters regarding MRS. G. W. BALLARD, et al, who are the subjects recently indicted on the grounds of using the mails to defraud.

These letters were forwarded to this Office by the Honorable RALPH E. JENNEY, Judge, United States District Court, Los Angeles, California, on August 26, 1940. The above letters are being forwarded to you for whatever action you deem advisable, and a copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Honorable Judge JENNEY to advise him of the disposition of said letters which were received from MISS EMMA TANG, 1639 Pearl Street, Denver, Colorado, and SHIRLEY VERMES, 1034 East Colfax, Denver, Colorado.

Very truly yours,

ARTHUR CORNELIUS, JR.,
Special Agent in Charge.

2 Incls.
cc - Judge Jenney
cc - Bureau

62-56722-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 SEP 11 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECORDED EJT:DLM
62-56722-20

September 23, 1940

Mrs. Katherine Eggs
1303 South Sherman Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mrs. Eggs:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated September 12, 1940, and I wish to express my appreciation for the interest you have shown in writing to this Bureau.

The content of your communication has been noted and will receive appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/93 BY SP8 BE/lmg

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
SEP 23 1940
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

September 18, 1940

JEN:AM
36-0-1851

Honorable Sheridan Downey
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

Kindly refer to my communication to you dated August 22, 1940, wherein you were advised that this Bureau has no information concerning the "I Am" organization.

You are informed the United States Attorney at Los Angeles, California, has now requested that Special Agents of this Bureau make certain investigation in connection with this matter and it is suggested that if you require additional information concerning this organization the same may be obtained directly from the United States Attorney at Los Angeles.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards,

Sincerely yours,

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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★ SEP 19 1940 ★
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Headon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Honolulu, T. H.

FILE NO. 65-444 jh

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Honolulu, T. H. | 8-12-40 | 7/29-31; 9/5/40 | A. I. ELLIS |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| P. R. STRAUCH | ESPIONAGE |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject leader of "I A." religion purported to be pro-Hitler. Attendants deny having knowledge that Subject is pro-Hitler.

- C -

DETAILS: This case is predicated on the information received on Saturday, July 27, 1940, from Mr. J. B. SIMSON, who is employed by the Railway Express Agency in Honolulu and who resides at 3530 Trousseau Street, telephone 706593, who called at this office and advised that while delivering a package to Mrs. H. SHELTON, 1840 Anapuni Street, he had become engaged in conversation with Mrs. SHELTON and she had advised him that one STRAUCH was very pro-Hitler. Mrs. SHELTON informed that STRAUCH, who lives on Makiki Street near the Masonic Temple, is a notary public and is the leader in Honolulu for the "I A." group; that this group meets in a room in the upstairs of STRAUCH'S home, and that there is a big picture of Hitler in this room.

Mrs. H. SHELTON, 1840 Anapuni Street, was interviewed and stated that P. R. STRAUCH is a real estate man and notary public and was reported to her as being pro-Hitler and leader of the "I A." group. This group has meetings in his home once or twice a week and these were formerly attended by a very intelligent woman named Mrs. HARRY KING who formerly resided with Mrs. SHELTON and also with Miss SCIBENT, WPA worker in Honolulu. She stated that she had heard from Mrs. KING that a picture of Hitler hangs in the church part of this house and that STRAUCH brags about Hitler being a member of the "I A." group. Mrs. SHELTON described STRAUCH

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as being a person 60 years of age; height, 6 feet; weight, 140; married, and pasty-looking.

Mrs. SHELTON appeared to be a little over-zealous in this matter, and it is believed that she would be prone to exaggerate. During the discussion, she intimated that she believed that anyone who was not a member of the Protestant religion was doomed to purgatory.

Mrs. HARRY KING, Cottage A, Captain Cook Avenue, employed by the Underwood Typewriter Company, Merchant Street, Honolulu, stated that she only attended the "I AM" society on two or three occasions and sung a few hymns and, to her knowledge, there was no mention of Germany, Hitler, or any politics. She stated that she had never heard any of the members of this group say anything to the effect that STRAUCH was pro-Hitler or pro-German, and she was positive that there was no picture of Hitler hanging in the room in which they were meeting. She stated that she was not a member of the "I AM" group but was a Catholic.

Due to the fact that there appears to be no evidence of espionage in this case, it is being closed on the authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

- C L O S E D -

Best Available Copy

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Honolulu, T. H. FILE NO. 65-444

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Honolulu, T. H. | 8-12-40 | 7/27-31; 8/5/40 | A. I. [redacted] |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| P. H. [redacted] | [redacted] |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject leader of "I A." religion reported to be pro-Hitler. Attendants deny having knowledge that subject is pro-Hitler.

- 0 -

DETAILS: This case is predicated on the information received on Saturday, July 27, 1940, from Mr. J. S. [redacted], who is employed by the Railway Express Agency in Honolulu and who resides at 5553 Nenepoua Street, telephone 74673, who called at this office and advised that while delivering a package to Mrs. L. [redacted], 1049 Aupuni Street, he had become engaged in conversation with Mrs. [redacted] and she had advised him that one [redacted] was very pro-Hitler. Mrs. [redacted] informed that [redacted], who lives on Laaloa Street near the Kaaahi Temple, is a notary public and is the leader in Honolulu for the "I A." group; that this group meets in a room in the upstairs of [redacted] home, and that there is a big picture of Hitler in this room.

Mrs. L. [redacted], 1049 Aupuni Street, was interviewed and stated that [redacted] is a real estate man and notary public and was reported to her as being pro-Hitler and leader of the "I A." group. This group has meetings in his home once or twice a week and these were formerly attended by a very intelligent woman named Mrs. [redacted] who formerly resided with Mrs. [redacted] and also with Miss [redacted], all worker in Honolulu. She stated that she had heard from Mrs. [redacted] that a picture of Hitler hangs in the church part of this house and that [redacted] brags about Hitler being a member of the "I A." group. Mrs. [redacted] described [redacted]

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—2034

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California
August 31, 1940

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: EDNA W. BALLARD, et al.,
"I AM";
MAIL FRAUD

Dear Sir:

This office is in receipt of a letter from the U. S. Attorney at Los Angeles, California, dated August 29, 1940, requesting the use of an accountant for duty in Los Angeles, Cal., to work upon the above-captioned case. The accountant is to examine books, records, ledgers, and journals in an endeavor to ascertain the amount of personal profit obtained by the members of the "I AM" cult, also the records of the agents who placed radio broadcasts and sold the transcriptions thereof, in an endeavor to ascertain the personal profit obtained.

It is estimated that there is from one month to five weeks accounting work to be done by one accountant. The trial will take approximately one week. I am assigning Special Agent (A) THOMAS M. MULHERIN to work on the instant matter, in absence of instructions of the Bureau to the contrary.

Very truly yours,

ARTHUR CORNELIUS, JR.
Special Agent in Charge

MMM:mrk
47-1195

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Rt. 11, Box 79 Portland Oregon
Sept. 21, 1940

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington D.C.

68318

Dear Sir:—

"The christ child enfolding thee, Emperor, has grown into Majesty and Power. It no longer pleads but commands obidience of and that is of the outer, to the service of the inner Power. The Power of Divine Love governs thee and consumes all unlike itself." (Page 358 I Am Discourse)

"I Am"

The "I AM" Activity is an educational and patriotic activity. Thousands running into millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been arousing the American people into action to stamp out our Country Communism, Fascism, Nazism, Fifth Column and all subversive activities and to sustain our form of government in its

original purity.

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God Bless You

ever

(Mrs) Ella Johnson

Mrs. Ella Johnson

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FILE NO. 36-138

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles, Calif. | 9-23-40 | 9-4 to 14-40 | THOMAS M. MULHERIN MC |

TITLE: EDNA W. BALLARD, alias Saint Germain, Jesus, Joan of Arc, Lotus Ray King, Chanera; DONALD BALLARD, alias Edona Eros Ballard, Lafayette; BETTY MUNDY; CHARLES SINDELAR; PAUL POTTER; FRANK VON BERHCYA; PEARL SINDELAR; FRED E. DOBBINS; PAUL STICKELL; LOUISE MAJERUS; CECELIA MAJERUS; WILLIAM J. CASSIERE; CAROLIE HENDRICKSON, alias Retana Hendrickson; FRANCES EKEY; BERT E. CORPORON; SALLIE BRESSLER; EOND BRESSLER; Mrs. PAUL POTTER; STANLEY CONRAD; Mrs. ADA COX FISHER; GRANT L. LEWIS; PEARL DIEHL; ROBERT LE FEVRE; JOHN C. FOSTER; "I AM" MOVEMENT.

CHARACTER OF CASE: MAIL FRAUD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/24/82 BY 388 BEB/ms

Synopsis of Facts: TEN DAY REPORT.

Details: As a result of investigation by Post Office Inspectors an indictment was returned by the Federal Grand Jury at Los Angeles, California, on August 28, 1940, against the twenty-four individuals whose names and aliases are set forth in the title of this report. This indictment alleges in substance that a large number of people were defrauded through false representations, pretenses and promises. It is stated that the victims purchased books, magazines, pictures, articles, and other paraphernalia offered for sale by the defendants and were induced to become followers and accept the teachings and movement sponsored by the defendants, commonly known as the "I AM" movement, and were induced to give, send, and pay money and give other things of value to the defendants because of these false representations.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: A. Cornelius, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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SEP 27 P.M

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

L.A. 36-138

The indictment alleges that GUY W. BALLARD, who died at Los Angeles, California, on December 29, 1939, was represented by the defendants to have been selected by the alleged "ascended master", Saint Germain, as a divine messenger, and it was represented that the words of the alleged divine entity, Saint Germain, would be transmitted to mankind through the medium of the said GUY W. BALLARD. The indictment alleges that EDNA W. BALLARD (wife of GUY W. BALLARD) and DONALD BALLARD( Son of GUY W. BALLARD) were stated to have been selected as divine messengers through whom the words of the alleged "ascended masters", including the alleged Saint Germain, would be communicated to mankind under the teachings commonly known as the "I AM" movement. It is stated that the defendants represented that the various books which were written by GUY W. BALLARD were dictated by Saint Germain and sold under such representations. It is stated that GUY W. BALLARD, during his lifetime, and EDNA W. BALLARD and DONALD BALLARD had claimed to have attained a supernatural state of self-immortality, which condition enabled them, and each of them, to be entirely free from ailments common to man, and to conquer disease, death, old age, poverty, and misery, which power or condition and supernatural state the defendants and each of them, represented they could and would transmit to others willing to pay therefor or willing to part with other things of value therefor to the defendants. It is alleged that all these representations were made for the false and fraudulent purpose of securing money or other things of value from the persons intended to be defrauded, and that the defendants knew the representations to be false.

The principal office of the two corporations maintained by the BALLARDS is in Chicago. These corporations are known as "SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION" and "SAINT GERMAIN PRESS". However, the principal revenues of the corporations were obtained in the Los Angeles vicinity and a branch office was maintained in Los Angeles. The greater part of three separate sets of books have already come into the possession of the Post Office Inspectors, those of the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION, Chicago, and both the Chicago and Los Angeles records of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS.

The persons other than the BALLARDS named in the indictment are their associates who aided them in preaching the doctrines of the "I AM" movement and in collecting funds from members of the movement.

L.A. 36-138

The purpose of the accounting investigation in this case is to determine the amount and source of cash receipts and the amount and reasons for cash disbursements broken down in so far as possible to show the benefit to the various defendants.

The investigation to date indicates that cash receipts and disbursements are handled by both the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION and the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS and that there are a large number of intercompany transactions. It also appears that prior to the incorporation of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS on December 19, 1939, considerable of the business of the "I AM" movement was shown in the personal records of the BALLARDS which have not and probably will not be produced for examination. In order that a proper classification of cash disbursements may be made it appears that it will be necessary to examine thousands of receipts and memoranda, some of which have not already been produced. A request for the missing records has been made on the defendants' attorneys by the United States Attorney and it is stated that the missing corporate records will be produced in Los Angeles.

In addition to the examination of the records of the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION and the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, it appears that it may be desirable to examine the records of the TED DAHL ADVERTISING AGENCY, Los Angeles, which arranged the radio broadcasts for the "I AM" movement and also the records of R. R. DONNELLEY & SONS COMPANY, Chicago, Illinois, which published the books of the "I AM" movement.

The trial of this case has been set for November 19, 1940, and it is estimated that the greater part of the intervening time will be required to complete the examination as above outlined.

Special Agent JAMES C. SLOANE and the writer performed investigative activity in connection with the case. Special Agent SLOANE worked from September 4, to 14, 1940, while the writer worked on September 4, 6, 9, 10 and 14, 1940.

- PENDING -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FILE NO. 36-138

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles, Calif. | 9-23-40 | 9-4 to 14-40 | THOMAS M. MULHERIN MO |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| EDNA W. BALLARD, alias Saint Germain, Jesus, Joan of Arc, Lotus Ray King, Chanera; DONALD BALLARD, alias Edona Eros Ballard, Lafayette; BETTY MUNDY; CHARLES SINDELAR; PAUL POTTER; ~~SYNOPSIS HEREON~~ FRANK VON DERHOYA; PEARL SINDELAR; FRED E. DOBBINS; PAUL STICKELL; LOUISE MAJERUS; CECELIA MAJERUS; WILLIAM J. CASSIERE; CAROLIE HENDRICKSON, alias Ratana Hendrickson; FRANCES EKEY; BERT E. CORPORON; SALLIE BRESSLER; BOND BRESSLER; Mrs. PAUL POTTER; STANLEY CONRAD; Mrs. ADA COX FISHER; GRANT L. LEWIS; PEARL DIEHL; ROBERT LE FEVRE; JOHN C. FOSTER; "I AM" MOVEMENT. | MAIL FRAUD |

Synopsis of Facts: TEN DAY REPORT.

Details: As a result of investigation by Post Office Inspectors an indictment was returned by the Federal Grand Jury at Los Angeles, California, on August 28, 1940, against the twenty-four individuals whose names and aliases are set forth in the title of this report. This indictment alleges in substance that a large number of people were defrauded through false representations, pretenses and promises. It is stated that the victims purchased books, magazines, pictures, articles, and other paraphernalia offered for sale by the defendants and were induced to become followers and accept the teachings and movement sponsored by the defendants, commonly known as the "I AM" movement, and were induced to give, send, and pay money and give other things of value to the defendants because of these false representations.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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3957 N. Colonial Ave.
Portland, Oregon
September 26, 1940

68317

J. E. Hoover
Federal B. of I.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

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62-56722-27
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
2 OCT 1 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The "I Am" Activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands running into millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been arousing the American people into action to sweep out of our country Communism, Fascism, Nazism, the Fifth Column and all subversive activities and to sustain our form of government in its original form.

"America means so much more than her inhabitants dare to dream, for she is the heart center of spiritual progress on the planet. It is in America that the firm foundation of the Cosmic Christ — the 'Mighty "I Am" Presence' will find anchor in the hearts of mankind. This Great All-powerful Sight shall expand and intensify, until not a vestige of selfishness or political intrigue will remain or be remembered. (The Magic Presence, Page 134.)

God Bless You,

(Miss) Gloria Ekman

MISS GLORIA E KMAN

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DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Rt. 11 Bx 179 Portland Oregon
Oct. 2, 1940

Mr. J E Hoover
Washington D.C.

OCT 9 RECD

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-56722-28

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
1 OCT 8 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Dear Sir:

The "I AM" Activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands into millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been arousing the American people into action to sweep out of our country Communism, Fascism, Nazism, the Fifth Column and all subversive activities and to sustain our form of government in its original form.

"Within thy Soul, O Mighty America! is the Strength to shake thyself free from the barnacles that have attached themselves to thee, the barnacles of selfishness and creation of the outer activity of the mind of unawakened human beings. So shall you again come into the ~~Light~~ fulness of that Light which is your birthright." ("I AM" Discourses page 294)

God Bless You
(Mrs) Ella Johnson
ELLA JOHNSON

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DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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F B I
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECORDED JJS:AFS
62-58722-27

October 8, 1940

Miss Gloria Ekman
3957 North Colonial Avenue
Portland, Oregon

Dear Miss Ekman:

In the absence of Mr. Hoover from Washington your communication dated September 28, 1940, has been received.

The contents of your letter will be called to the Director's attention upon his return to the City.

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy
Secretary

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/02 BY SP5 BTC/mlk

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Headen
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ OCT 9 1940 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

...te 11, Box 179
...tland, Oregon
October 2, 1940

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/82 BY [illegible]

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D.C.

RECORDED & INDEXED
62-56722-29
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
1 OCT 8 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

Dear Sir:

The "I Am" activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands into millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been arousing the American people into action to sweep out of our country Communism, Fascism, Naziism, the Fifth Column and all subversive activities and to sustain our form of government in its original form.

"The net that the sinister force of earth has seemed to draw America into will yet find the "Sword of Truth and Light" sever the net each way, making of it the Open-Ended Cross of Freedom, of Light, and Justice."
(The "I Am" Discourses, Page 294.)

no ack

God Bless You,
(Miss) Eunice Johnson
EUNICE JOHNSON

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

OCT 9 4 13 PM '40
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F B I
DEPT OF JUSTICE

San Diego, Calif.,

Sept. 23rd, 40.

Mr. J.Edgar Hoover,

Washington, D.C.

72019

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/14/75 BY SP3 TAM/rd

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Gandy

Dear Sir:

Only because you were unable to get a postponement do I write again. I know by that you felt further investigation was necessary and the I9th of November is not far off. If you drop the suit your fifth column will multiply no end, the world will be assured the " Mighty I AM" presence has proven its power over all and St. Germany will reign supreme.

Your case is fraud and you can prove fraud even to proving they are Nazis' while presuming to be heads of a Peace organization, at the same time you can release these deluded people by showing them how they were deluded. When you do this the Nazi agents will realize you understand their inner workings and their morale will be broken.

Judge Leon R. Yankwich was born in Rumania . About the time this case goes to trial I think his native country will be in the Nazi vice and as you unfold the case to him I believe he will vision his adopted country in the same vice and as it dawns on him you will get full co-operation. I worked all night, night before last trying to figure this case out, and I think I have got it.

OCT 5 RECD

A surprise attack is always good, it disorganizes. I would suggest you go over into their camp and break their defense, in this manner. Have the Attorney General start his opening address thus, - " By their Works ye shall know them." Then brief your written evidence and what you propose to prove, then close with, " The first law book written states, By their works ye shall know them," and we intend to lay before you their works that you may wisely judge just who is wrong, the defendents in this case or the Government of this country."

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-56222-30

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 OCT 9 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

The fact that you do anything Spiritual will throw their attorney off guard, confuse him, a confused mind does not work well. They intend to refute your material testimony with glorified Spiritual Statements, confuse the issue,(Hitler always confuses issues ) . When you enter their camp by starting with a Spiritual statement, you are going to break their defense, as they do not expect any Spiritual statement from you. They expect you to hammer on points of law and materiality. You will show them you can handle the material and the Spiritual both with equal balance. Then of course you will present your found evidence after which ask Mrs. Ballard to take the stand. Iam sure they will put her on,( although in Californis I believe they dont have to) but she likes the stage so well she will take it.

In your first question ask her if she believes in incarnation, I dont think she will know what you mean - if she does'nt read Webster to her. quote- "Incarnation the act of clothing with , or of assuming flesh , embodiment ~~of God~~ in human form, such as the embodiment of God in human form as in the person of Jesus."

Then she will agree that she believes in it, because of course St.Germain came through her husband and all those others, draw her out on how many people came through her husband, and what they did and etc. , dont forget K 17 and the submarines. The case is yours from then on , although they will think it is theirs; you will be lulling the enemy before the Supreme attack. Ask her if these people ( St. Germain and etc.) in her opinion were masters. When she says yes ask her if her husband was a master, you can be sure she will say yes to that, then you are set to go.

Ask her what are the marks of a master . She can't give them, she doesnt know them, her very life proves that but she will probably tell you something about ascension, blue rays and lights or even offer a demonstration - do not permit demonistrations she will hypnotize the entire court room. Tell her you have to have proofthat is understandable by all, such as characteristics, then say, " It seems to have been proven to you that your husband was a master and as such - these statements and articles he was sending through

mail were true and what he claimed. Now that is what you have to prove to the court that these statements can be backed by concrete evidence. What was it your husband had that could be materially seen like objects or discerned such as traits of character, that proved he handled super natural powers. Its quite likely she will say his large following. Your answer then will be the Devil had a following too, did he not ? and does today.

Then your Supreme Blitzkrieg. Say, Mrs Ballard I believe we had better test your Spirits and see if they are of God. That is the advise of the first law book- the bible- maybe even you are mistaken.

" Was Christ a Master ? (the world credits him as one) she will have to answer yes to that. Did he take from the people or did he give to the people ? That is the first mark of a master, he always gives he never takes. Was he humble in his ways or did he put on a big show to let every one know he was here ? He was humble - that is the second mark of a master. Did he claim to be doing the miracles he performed ? No he said"It was the father in him that did the works." Did he ever say he was a master No - he recognized only one master " God". Did he seek gold and treasures? No - Did he seek self aggrandizement? No - He said, "Go and tell no man of the works ye do." Did he work with the material at hand or did he create his own ? He worked with what was here , he restored Lazarus to his body , he made wine out of water, he multiplied the loaves and fishes, he always worked with that which was, followed the law laid by the creator. He was a builder , never a destroyer.

The way to test a Spirit that is coming through some one like your husband is to find out whether they are builders or destroyers. If Mr. Ballard thought he was working with builders instead of destroyers then he should have used these tests. Whether ignorant or aware of the law we are subject to the law and must pay the penalty of ill advisement.

To complete our case let us test these Spirits and by their character find out what they are. You required all of your followers

to destroy all their books and follow only your books, did you not ? What man in the world today required a nation to destroy all of its books and follow only his books , Hitler.

72022

You do not permit co-habitation among your people, in doing that you are destroying the American race. What man in the world today teaches race worship, wants only the German race to survive and wishes to destroy all others, yes, Hitler. You are particularly antagonistic to astrological books are you not ? What man in the world today is a noted astrologer, goes by the maps of the heavens? Hitler. It wouldnt be wise to have any one else understand those maps also, would it ?

What man has his people so hypnotized that they know only one mind, his, are unable to exercise logic and reason, dominated completely by his will ? Hitler. What man wants to reduce the strength of all other nations ? Hitler. Do you realize that is what you are doing when You cut out the strength and life giving foods of the people, weakening them so they are unable to stand attack, weakening first their minds through hypnotism and then their bodies through reduction of the right foods.

We are asked to test our Spirits and know they be of God and we are warned of false prophets. By their works we shall know them whether it be on this plane of existence or the one beyond. By their works we shall know them , this looks to me not like St. Germain but St. Germany.

The case will be yours and you will have fought it on their own ground making the victory complete. The Government being the prosecutor has the right to the last word, hence in the final rebuttal I would suggest incorporating this material at the end of the speech.

" This is a case of fraud right straight through , on the material world and the Spiritual as well. These Spirits do not stand the test of the Builder, the Master Builder who at no time took from the world but gave to it. Who was humble in Spirit and action - who sought to build nations not destroy them, who sought to build people in character and

health not destroy them , who sought above all things to make them strong in mind and heart and independent in action.

" I have written these my laws in your hearts and minds and hence forth thou shalt reap as thou hast sown."

He said, - - - - - If you follow false prophets you must suffer the disillusionment .

Christ did not take money and jewels from the people stating the end of the world is at hand. He never asked for the material wealth of any one, nor has any succeeding Master since. The Master Buddha the great light of Asia said, "Possessions bring grief," and today this order is learning the truth of that statement.

(Jury)

I ask you ladies and gentlemen to bring in a verdict of guilty, "That this country may continue in Liberty and Union now and forever; One and Inseperable."

I do not feel you will mis-understand me but in case you do, I want you to know that I dislike women who presume to tell men what to do, Iam not trying that. Iam only trying to co-operate for I do understand about Masters and Mastership. Iam somewhat of an authority on it so I know when people are <u>real</u> in it and when they are <u>not</u>.

I would never have interefered with this movement had it not proven by its acts and statements dangerous to the nation and its people. As a rule these things flare up and die without any particular danger I know how very dangerous wrong handling of peoples emotions can become, so much so, that I put it into print this year, something I never intended to do. The times are such something has to be done. The Library of Congress will quite likely loan you a copy if you feel you need proof of my ststement.

I know you are the investigator and the Attorney General has to handle the case. This material offered is briefed and can be enlarged upon . In handling your case in this manner you will need very few if any witnesses outside of Mrs Ballard. You will win and go down in history

as having performed a very great act. Your letter of September 17th. received, thank you.

72024

Sincerely,

E. Leta Hoskins.
4111 Stephens St.
San Diego
Calif.

E. LETA HOSKINS

FILES DIVISION
RECEIVED
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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
OCT 9 1940
POSTAL

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Herndon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

WA5 51 GOVT VIA MACKAY

DY LOSANGELES CALIF OCT 8-40

DIRECTOR

FBI JUSTICE WASHN DC

RETEL EIGHTH INSTANT. SAA JC SLOANE PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN ACCOUNTING INVESTIGATION EDNA BALLARD, ETAL, THE I AM, MAIL FRAUD CASE, ENTAILING FOUR WEEKS ADDITIONAL WORK AND TRIAL SCHEDULED NOVEMBER NINETEENTH. INADVISABLE HE BE REMOVED THIS ASSIGNMENT THIS TIME. UNLESS ADVISED TO CONTRARY WILL NOT THEREFORE REPORT FOR INSERVICE TRAINING OCTOBER FOURTEENTH

CORNELIUS.

(243AM)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/24/02 BY SP6 BAW/mg

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-31
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 10 1940
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON CLEGG E. A. TAMM FOXWORTH NATHAN LADD EGAN GLAVIN NICHOLS HERNDON ROSEN TRACY GANDY CLK. PENNINGTON

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COMMUNICATIONS

OCT. 9 2 51 AM '40

JJS:HB
62-56722-30

RECORDED

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October 16, 1940

Mrs. E. Leta Hoskins
4111 Stephens Street
San Diego, California

Dear Mrs. Hoskins:

Your letter dated September 23, 1940, has been received, and I want to thank you for making available to me your views and observations. You may be sure that the contents of your communication will receive appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

DATE 11/29/82 BY [illegible]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ OCT 17 1940 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OCT 16 6 02 PM '40

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT PHILADELPHIA, PA. FILE NO. 65-1392 ELS

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| PHILADELPHIA, PA. | 10/11/40 | 6/17-7/3/16 | J. R. WELLES |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| ST. GERMAIN SOCIETY, DR. FRANCIS M. JAHN, MR. ____ EKEY, MRS. ____ EKEY | ESPIONAGE |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

ST. GERMAIN SOCIETY reported pro-Nazi with JAHN and EKEYS as leading members. Investigation shows this Society is connected with the cult "I AM" and the EKEYS are leaders of this organization. No evidence of espionage or sabotage.

- C -

DETAILS:

On June 17, 1940 [redacted] b7D advised that the ST. GERMAIN SOCIETY publishes books and pamphlets advocating the overthrow of the American Government. It was [redacted] contention that the ST. GERMAIN SOCIETY is composed of Germans and that MRS. EKEY, of the Majestic Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa., is a member and conducts meetings at this hotel on Tuesday and Friday evenings. He alleged further that DR. FRANCIS M. JAHN is also a member of this organization and he conducts meetings on Tuesday and Friday evenings in room 307 of the Horn and Hardart Building, 16th and Chestnut Streets, Phila., Pa.

Detective WILLIAM SIMMLER, Jr., of the Philadelphia Detective Bureau, on July 3, 1940, determined that JAHN is a licensed osteopathic physician with offices at 307 Horn and Hardart Building, northwest corner of 16th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pa., and he resides at

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: J. J. Sears SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

65-1392-32 OCT 16 1940

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3 - Philadelphia

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OCT 14 1940

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—2034

3705 Hamilton Street. He shares his office with Dr. C. T. JUSTICE and Dr. FLOYD WHITEBREAD, both osteopathic physicians. Dr. JAHN has been at this address for six years, paying a monthly rental of $45.00 to WILLIAM I. MERKLE COMPANY, INC. His credit is very good.

Detective SIMMLER established that on the following days, which were Tuesdays and Fridays, during June, he left this building where he has his office with a man known as Mr. HOWE, and that no other persons left the building with them. These days were May 14, 21, 28; June 4, 11, 18, 25; May 17, 31; and June 7, 14 and 21, 1940. On Friday, June 21, 1940 a man known as Mr. WRIGHT also left the building with HOWE and JAHN. These persons always left the building each evening at about 8.55 P.M. Mr. WRIGHT is the Doctor's chauffeur and Mr. HOWE is the owner of the premises at 3705 Hamilton Street where he has made his home for the past twenty years. Mr. HOWE conducts an engraving business in the Real Estate Trust Building, Broad and Chestnut Streets and is a very reputable person and business man.

Dr. JAHN has been one of the followers of a man named G.W. OBALLARD, Chief Priest of the cult known as the "I AM". BALLARD died around the first of the year, 1940. Dr. JAHN is supposed to be very engrossed in this religious cult, which may possibly have political ambitions. Mrs. EKEY, of the Majestic Hotel, is a member of the "I AM" cult, together with her husband. They maintain a suite of rooms at the Majestic Hotel, and also rent a large room on the second floor of the Hotel which is used as a reading room and is open to the public. Also maintained by the EKEYS is a large meeting hall at the northeast corner of Broad Street and Girard Avenue, which is also the property of the Majestic Hotel. The EKEYS have lived at this Hotel for three years and enjoy a desirable reputation, both with the management and employees.

Detective SIMMLER reinterviewed the original informant and determined that [redacted] and in the opinion of Detective SIMMLER [redacted] b7D

On July 16, 1940 [redacted] the original informant,

[redacted] b7D

It does not appear that there are any espionage or sabotage activities in connection with this case.

- C L O S E D -

Bailey, Colorado,
10/17/40.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The "IAM" activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands running into millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been arousing the American

This same letter has been received from others. No action advisable.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/29/92 BY SP[illegible]

RECORDED & INDEXED
62-56722-34
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 21 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OCT 23 4 53 PM '80
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT PHILADELPHIA, PA. FILE NO. 65-1302 ELS

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| PHILADELPHIA, PA. | 10/11/40 | 6/17-7/3/16 | J. R. WELLES |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| ST. GERMAIN SOCIETY, DR. FRANCIS M. JAHN, MR. ______ EKEY, MRS. ______ EKEY | ESPIONAGE |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

ST. GERMAIN SOCIETY reported pro-Nazi with JAHN and EKEYS as leading members. Investigation shows this Society is connected with the cult "I AM" and the EKEYS are leaders of this organization. No evidence of espionage or sabotage.

- C -

DETAILS:

On June 17, 1940 Mr. SAMUEL DAVIS, 3049 Lancaster Avenue, advised that the ST. GERMAIN SOCIETY publishes books and pamphlets advocating the overthrow of the American Government. It was Mr. DAVIS' contention that the ST. GERMAIN SOCIETY is composed of Germans and that MRS. EKEY, of the Majestic Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa., is a member and conducts meetings at this hotel on Tuesday and Friday evenings. He alleged further that DR. FRANCIS M. JAHN is also a member of this organization and he conducts meetings on Tuesday and Friday evenings in room 307 of the Horn and Hardart Building, 16th and Chestnut Streets, Phila., Pa.

Detective WILLIAM SIEMLER, Jr., of the Philadelphia Detective Bureau, on July 3, 1940, determined that JAHN is a licensed osteopathic physician with offices at 307 Horn and Hardart Building, Northwest corner of 16th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pa., and he resides at

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

11/24/42

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5 - Bureau
3 - Philadelphia

Rt. 11, #179 Portland Oregon
Oct. 12, 1940

Mr. E. J. Hoover
Washington D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE [illegible] BY [illegible]

Dear Sir:—

The "I AM" activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands running into millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been arousing the American people into action to sweep out of our country Communism, Fascism, Nazism, the Fift Column and all subversive activities and to sustain our form of government in its original form.

"America is the Way Shower among the nations, bearing the 'Light' that heralds the incoming Golden Age. Regardless of her present conditions, 'That Light' Shall burst forth and consume the shadows that seek to disrupt her Ideals and Love for the Great God Self." (Unveiled Mysteries page 133)

God Bless You

(Mrs) Ella Jones
Mrs Ella Johnson

RECORDED & INDEXED
62-56722-33
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 OCT 17 194
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

I Am.

No action
see file

35

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DEPT. OF JUST.

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F. B. I.
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

people into action to
stamp out of our country
Communism, Fascism,
Nazi-ism, the Fifth column
and all subversive activi-
ties and to sustain our
form of government in
its original form.

"O America!
Precious jewel in the crown,
the diadem of earth, that
Flower of Ancient Wisdom
and Light! again you
shall come into the power

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F.B.I. JUSTICE

of your full bloom in spite of all the seeming obstructions and appearances to the contrary at present."
(The "I AM" Discourses, page 293.)

God Bless You,

Miss. Christina Ruesink.
CHRISTINA RUESINK

OCT 23 P 3:57
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Bailey Colo., 10-17-40,

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Washington D.C.

ack 10-28-40 ewy

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-35

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
4 OCT 22 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FIVE

Dear Sir:

The "I AM" Activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands running into millions interested. [illegible] 1933, it has [illegible] the American people into action to sweep out of our country Communism, Fascism, Naziism, the Fifth Column,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/82 BY [illegible]

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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OCT 23 11 09 PM '40
F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

and all subversive
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ur form of goverment
in its original form.

"O America! Precious
jewel in the crown,
the diadem of earth,
that Flower of Ancient
Wisdom and Light!
again you shall come
into the power of
your full bloom in
spite of all the seeming
obstructions and appearances
to the contrary at present."

(The "I AM" Discourses,
page 293.)

God Bless You.

Miss Minnie Ruesink.
MINNIE RUESINK

RECEIVED
AUG 1
U.S. SECRET SERVICE

Rt. 11 # 179 Portland Oregon
Oct. 20, 1940

Mr. J. E. Hoover
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir—

OCT 29 RECD

The "I AM" activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands running into millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been necessary the American people unite action to sweep out of our country Communism, Fascism, Nazism, the fifth Columns and all subversive activities, and to sustain our form of government in its original form.

Show Wondrous Flag of Beauty and Power, as Thou hast so proudly waved over Valley Forge and the Victories of the past; so shall you wave now in the Victory of the Light for Our Beloved America and her people." (Voice) the "I AM" Sept. 1940

RECORDED & INDEXED
62-50122-36
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVEST
OCT 25 194
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JU

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 11/29/93 BY SP2 [illegible]

God Bless You

(Mrs.) Ella [illegible] Johnson
ELLA [illegible] JOHNSON

39

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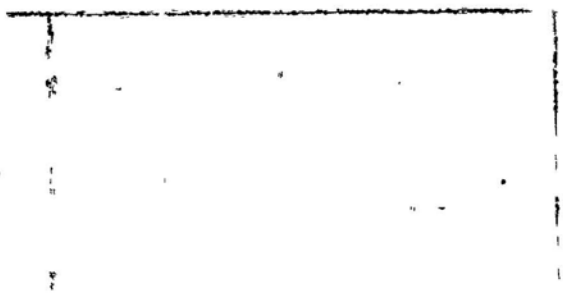
OCT 25 2 30 PM '40
F.B.I. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



RECORDED

EWY:WGR
62-56722-35 October 23, 1940

Miss Minnie Ruesink
Bailey, Colorado

Dear Miss Ruesink:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 17, 1940.

Your courtesy and interest in bringing this information to my attention are indeed appreciated, and you may be assured your letter will receive appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Henden
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MAILED
OCT 23 1940
P.M.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California

October 25, 1940

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/24/82 BY SP2 STP/MJ

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau telegram dated October 24, 1940, requesting information as to the dates on which Special Agents A. D. HORN, T. M. MULHERIN, and M. B. MYERSON will report to their new offices on transfer.

Please be advised that Special Agent (A) M. B. MYERSON will depart from Los Angeles on November 3, 1940, and proceed to San Francisco.

Special Agent (A) T. M. MULHERIN is presently engaged in the investigation of the mail fraud case entitled "EDNA BALLARD, et al, 'I AM' MOVEMENT." It is estimated that the investigation in this matter will take until the date of the trial, which is November 19, 1940, and the trial will last for approximately one month. It is, therefore, estimated that Special Agent MULHERIN will proceed to New York City on transfer on or about December 15, 1940.

Special Agent A. D. HORN is presently engaged in making plant surveys on two plants within this district. It is contemplated that this work will take until November 29, 1940, on which date he will leave for Chicago, Illinois.

Very truly yours,

ARTHUR CORNELIUS, JR.
Special Agent in Charge

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FILE NO. 36-138

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
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| LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA | 10-24-40 | 9-16,21,23 & 10-1,7,8 to 11,:14,15-40 | THOMAS M. MULHERIN GWS |

TITLE

EDNA W. BALLARD, with aliases, ET AL;
"I AM" MOVEMENT

CHARACTER OF CASE

MAIL FRAUD

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

PROGRESS REPORT 11/26/42 BY

DETAILS: Since the submission of the ten-day report, practically all the records covering the years 1938, 1939, and the first six months of 1940 for both the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION and the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, Chicago and Los Angeles Branches, have been turned over to the Government for examination by CHARLES CARR, one of the attorneys for the defendants. An informal request has been made by the United States Attorney for all records since the origin of the "I AM" movement, but as yet no reply has been made by the defense.

A review has been made of the ledgers and journals of both the St. GERMAIN FOUNDATION and the ST. GERMAIN PRESS for the year 1939 and the first six months of 1940, and from such examination it appears that the following receipts and expenditures, exclusive of intercompany transactions, have been made:

| INCOME | 1939 | Jan. to June, 1940 |
|---|---|---|
| Contributions | $108,903.37 | $ 42,139.25 |
| Sales of Books, Charts, etc., less discounts | 97,904.69 | 76,765.12 |
| Miscellaneous | 268.23 | 299.27 |
| | $207,081.29 | 119,203.64 |
| Expenditures | 215,293.40 | 103,526.08 |
| | ( 8,212.11 ) | 15,677.56 |

Among the expenditures is an amount of $15,417.51 spent as part of the purchase price of two houses and furniture located at 1620 and 1624 East 84th Place, Chicago, Illinois, and $17,547.06 for allowances and

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

expenses of DONALD BALLARD, minor son of EDNA W. BALLARD. Large expenditures for hotels and meals, radio expenses, etc. must be further analyzed by examination of original memoranda and vouchers before the extent of benefit to the defendants from such expenditures can be determined.

Further investigation will be conducted to ascertain the amount of receipts and expenses for the year 1938, and further analyses will be made to determine the exact source of receipt and purpose of expenditure insofar as practicable for the period from January 1, 1938, to June 30, 1940. An examination of the records of the TED DAHL ADVERTISING AGENCY will be made. Also analyses of the costs of the numerous articles sold by the BALLARDS compared with their selling price will be made. It is estimated that this work will require the time of two accountants from the present time until the date of the trial which is set for November 19, 1940.

If the records of the BALLARDS from the time of the start of the "I AM" MOVEMENT are obtained a survey will be made of them to determine the amount of original investment by the BALLARDS, if any, and the source of the present investment in the movement as reflected by the following combined balance sheet of the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION and SAINT GERMAIN PRESS on June 30, 1940:

| ASSETS | |
|---|---|
| Current Assets: | $ 85,095.67 |
| Fixed Assets, less depreciation | 13,130.08 |
| Deferred Charges | 839.72 |
| Total | 99,065.47 |

| LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL | |
|---|---|
| Liabilities to persons other than BALLARDS | 10,731.45 |
| SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, Capital stock surplus, and drawing account of EDNA W. BALLARD (all 1000 shares of stock being in name of GUY W. BALLARD or EDNA W. BALLARD) | 64,575.34 |
| SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION, Equity Account - This is allegedly non-profit corporation controlling managers of which are EDNA W. BALLARD, DONALD BALLARD and PAUL POTTER | 23,758.68 |
| Total | $ 99,065.47 |

Since the submission of the ten-day report Special Agent JAMES C. SLOANE has spent five days and the writer has spent eleven days on this investigation.

- P E N D I N G -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FILE NO. 36-133

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA | 10-24-40 | 9-16,21,23 & 10-1,7,8 to 11,14,15-40 | THOMAS M. MULHERIN GMS |

TITLE

EDNA W. BALLARD, with aliases, ET AL;
"I AM" MOVEMENT

CHARACTER OF CASE

MAIL FRAUD

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

PROGRESS REPORT

DETAILS: Since the submission of the ten-day report, practically all the records covering the years 1933, 1939, and the first six months of 1940 for both the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION and the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, Chicago and Los Angeles Branches, have been turned over to the Government for examination by CHARLES CARR, one of the attorneys for the defendants. An informal request has been made by the United States Attorney for all records since the origin of the "I AM" movement, but as yet no reply has been made by the defense.

A review has been made of the ledgers and journals of both the St. GERMAIN FOUNDATION and the ST. GERMAIN PRESS for the year 1939 and the first six months of 1940, and from such examination it appears that the following receipts and expenditures, exclusive of intercompany transactions, have been made:

| INCOME | 1939 | Jan. to June, 1940 |
|---|---|---|
| Contributions | $108,908.37 | $ 42,139.25 |
| Sales of Books, Charts, etc., less discounts | 97,904.69 | 76,765.12 |
| Miscellaneous | 263.23 | 299.27 |
| | $207,081.29 | 119,203.64 |
| Expenditures | 215,293.40 | 103,526.08 |
| | 8,212.11 | 15,677.56 |

Among the expenditures is an amount of $15,417.51 spent as part of the purchase price of two houses and furniture located at 1620 and 1624 East 84th Place, Chicago, Illinois, and $17,547.06 for allowances and

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RETEL TWENTYFOURTH INSTANT. INSTRUCT SAA J F HYNES PROCEED TUCSON, ARIZONA, PERFORM NECESSARY INVESTIGATION CASE US VERSUS HARRY A. GREYBAUER, ETAL, FAXXX FHA.

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Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Foxworth.....
Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. E[illegible].....
Mr. C[illegible].....
Mr. [illegible].....

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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RETEL INSTRUCTING SAA J C SLOANE TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO TUCSON ARIZONA IN CASE OF US VERSUS HARRY AEGREYBAUER, ETAL FHA. AGENT SLOANE ENGAGED IN PREPARATION FOR TRIAL ON NOVEMBER NINETEEN OF CASE EDNA BALLARD ETAL QUOTE I AM QUOTE MAIL FRAUD. ABOUT ONE MONTHS WORK REMAINING FOR TWO ACCOUNTANTS. THEREFORE ~~SUGES~~ SUGGEST ASSIGNMENT OF SAA J F HYNES OF THIS OFFICE PRESENTLY UNDER TRANSFER NEWORLEANS

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Denver,Colorado,
November 9th,1940

John Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
United "tates Department of Justice
Washington,D.C.

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Honorable Sir:-

The " I AM " activity is an educational and intense patriotic activity. Thousands running in to millions are interested.

Since 1933, it has been arousing the American people into action to sweep out of our country Communism, Fascism, Naziism,the Fifth Column and all subversive activities and to sustain our form of Government in its original form.

" O America! Precious Jewel in the crown,the diadem of earth, that Flower of Ancient Wisdom and Light! again you shall come into the power of your full bloom in spite of all the seeming obstructions and appearances to the contrary at present."
( The " I AM " discourses Page 293.)

God Bless You,

M.A. Youngquist.

M.A. Youngquist,
618 Fourteenth Street,
Denver,Colorado.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA L.A. FILE NO. 36-138

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles, California | 11-22-40 | 10-16-40 to 11-16-40. | THOMAS M. MULHERIN (A) MJB |

TITLE "CHANGED"
EDNA W. BALLARD, alias Saint Germain, Jesus, Joan of Arc, Lotus Ray King, Chanera; DONALD BALLARD, alias Edona Eros Ballard, Lafayette; BETTY LUNDY; FRANK VON DERHOYA; CHARLES SINDELAR; PEARL SINDELAR; WILLIAM J. CASSIERE; PAUL STICKELL; GRANT L. LEWIS; "I AM" MOVEMENT

CHARACTER OF CASE
MAIL FRAUD

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/24/82 BY SP2 BTD/hg

PROGRESS REPORT

DETAILS: The title of this report has been changed to eliminate the names of all but the above listed ten defendants, the indictment against the others having been nolle prossed on November 4, 1940.

Since the submission of the last progress report analyses of receipts and expenditures for the period from January 1, 1938 to June 30, 1940 for the St. GERMAIN PRESS, ST. GERMAIN PRESS, INC. and ST. GERMAIN FOUNDATION have been completed and summary schedules have been prepared showing the source of receipts and purposes of expenditures as reflected by the books. The total of such changes and net worth are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Net Worth of Ballards January 1, 1938 as shown by books of St. Germain Press | $ 48,538.57 |
| Receipts (other than Intercompany transactions) January 1, 1938 to June 30, 1940 | 537,153.96 |
| | 585,692.53 |
| Disbursements (other than Intercompany) January 1, 1938 to June 30, 1940 | 502,793.61 |
| Net worth reflected in Capital, Surplus and Personal Drawing accounts June 30, 1940 | $ 82,898.92 |

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PATON B. CROUSE, former private secretary to GUY W. BALLARD, has stated that all cash receipts were not turned over or reported to the head office of the MOVEMENT in Chicago but were retained by GUY W. BALLARD. CROUSE produced several lists of checks cashed in Washington, D. C., in 1939, the proceeds of which he stated were retained by BALLARD. CROUSE stated that it was the usual practice of GUY W. BALLARD to cash checks received as donations through the mails and retain the proceeds without record. In view of this Post Office Inspectors visited the hostelries at which the BALLARDS stopped on their tours around the country and insofar as practicable obtained lists of the checks cashed by them. While no record of these individual checks is shown on any of the records of the ST. GERMAIN PRESS, ST. GERMAIN PRESS, INC., or ST. GERMAIN FOUNDATION, there is a record of large amounts of cash received and such cash considerably exceeds the amount received from cashing the checks. CROUSE, however, states that the cash shown consists of actual currency collections and is not part of the proceeds of the checks cashed. However, the only accounting testimony that can be offered in support of this contention is that on a number of occasions GUY W. BALLARD wired money to the Chicago office in multiples of $1,000.00 when money was needed. The records indicate that such monies were received from GUY W. BALLARD personally. It is also to be noted that one of the letters written by GUY W. BALLARD to his son, DONALD BALLARD, states that $100.00 was enclosed which he should make no record of inasmuch as the income tax people might become inquisitive as to its source.

At the request of Special Assistant to the Attorney General JAMES RUFFIN and Assistant United States Attorney NORMAN NEUKOM a test check was made to determine whether or not the sales of the various books and paraphernalia handled by the BALLARDS had all been recorded on the books. Such a check was made covering the whole of the year 1939 involving the examination and listing of the information on 6,309 invoices. This examination showed that there were no substantial differences between the sales reported and the merchandise disposed of except in the case of the following shortages:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Phonograph records | 1,955 at selling price of $2.50 | $4,887.50 |
| Large charts | 271 at selling price of 15.00 | $4,065.00 |

ANNA MAY MEGINNIS, bookkeeper for the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS and FOUNDATION, stated that the above shortages were probably accounted for by the fact that during the latter part of 1939, the BALLARDS ordered the destruction of a large number of records which had been made by Mrs. HARRY N. ROGERS, organist, after the latter's dismissal from the "I AM" MOVEMENT. Miss MEGINNIS also stated that 266 large charts were distroyed in June, 1939 upon instructions of Mrs. EDNA W. BALLARD because, in the

latter's opinion, the red appearing in such charts was too bright and the use of bright red is condemned by the leaders of the "I AM" MOVEMENT because "it emanates a destructive vibration".

Analysis of expense accounts to determine the total of the benefits to subjects is progressing and will probably be completed in a period of from one week to ten days time.

The analysis of the records of the TED DAHL ADVERTISING AGENCY will be started during the week commencing November 18, 1940 and should be completed in several days.

If no further requests for accounting investigation are received it is expected that the work as presently outlined will be completed in two weeks. It is to be noted that the trial date has now been set for November 26, 1940 and the attendance of Agent J. C. SLOANE (A) and the writer will be required in Court during the presentation of the accounting phases of the case.

Since the submission of the last progress report the writer has spent seventeen days and Special Agent J. C. SLOANE (A) has spent twenty-two days on this investigation.

* P E N D I N G *

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California
November 25, 1940

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DATE 11/29/92 BY SP8 [illegible]

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: EDNA W. BALLARD, with
alias, ET AL. "I AM"
MOVEMENT. MAIL FRAUD

Dear Sir:

You are respectfully informed that Special Agent (A) THOMAS M. MULHERIN spent 36 days, and Special Agent (A) JAMES C. SLOANE spent 39½ days on the accounting investigation of the above-entitled case covered by the report of Special Agent MULHERIN dated November 25, 1940, and showing September 4 to November 25, 1940, as the period covered.

Very truly yours,

R. B. Hood

R. B. HOOD
Special Agent in Charge

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA

FILE NO. 36-138

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| LOS ANGELES | 11-25-40 | Sep. 4 to Nov. 25, 1940 | THOMAS M. MULHERIN (A) |

TITLE EDNA W. BALLARD, w.a., et al
"I AM" MOVEMENT.

CHARACTER OF CASE
MAIL FRAUD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1/29/92 BY SP6T/JAS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: ACCOUNTING REPORT

"I AM" MOVEMENT conducted as partnership by GUY W. BALLARD and EDNA W. BALLARD under name SAINT GERMAIN PRESS from organization sometime in 1934 or 1935 until March 2, 1938, when SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION incorporated. Shortly thereafter activities of Movement divided between SAINT GERMAIN PRESS and SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION. On December 12, 1939, the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS was incorporated under name of SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC. SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION has no capital stock and BALLARDS controlled activities under self-perpetuating arrangement. Of 1000 shares of capital stock issued by SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC., 500 were issued in name of GUY W. BALLARD and 500 were issued in name of EDNA W. BALLARD. GUY W. BALLARD died on December 29, 1939, and named EDNA W. BALLARD his sole beneficiary. Financial records obtained do not antedate January 1, 1938, with several exceptions, and cover the period from January 1, 1938, until July 31, 1940, for both corporations and the partnership, except that inventory lists and certain other records not obtained. Records obtained indicate BALLARDS had net worth of $48,538.57 on January 1, 1938, and that on June 30, 1940, EDNA W. BALLARD had a net interest of $64,575.34 in SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC., while SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION had an excess of assets over liabilities of $23,758.68. Although SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION was incorporated as a non-profit corporation several of disbursements made by it appear to have been for personal benefit of BALLARDS, and the net profit or loss to be made by it is controlled by the fact that all books and paraphanalia sold by it are purchased through SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC., the amount of the discount given the FOUNDATION being determined by EDNA W. BALLARD. Receipts by the two corporations and partnership from Jan. 1, 1938, until June 30, 1940, amounted to $537,153.96, of which $251,658.47 was for contributions and $284,729.34 represented the sale of books. Disbursements amounted to $502,793.61. Of this

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latter sum amounts disbursed on behalf of defendants amounted to $14,973.55 for GUY W. DALLAIL; $33,386.73 for ELSA W. DALLAIL; $28,283.02 for DONALD DALLAIL; $5,693.10 for BETTY MOWRY; $5,418.46 for MARY VON DELINOYA; $6,093.83 for GRANT L. LEWIS; and $2,525.00 for LOUISE MADEIROS. Books do not show benefits to other defendants, but income tax statements of PAUL STICKELL for four years ended Dec. 31, 1939, indicate net income of $11,415.61 in addition to travel and living expenses; and income tax statements of CHARLES and PEARL CHANELAR for the same period indicate a net income of $55,532.19. Benefits to WILLIAM J. CASSIDY, who filed no income tax returns, not known. Oral testimony of PATON P. CROSBY, former private secretary to GUY W. DALLAIL, indicates that DALLAIL only accounted for a part of collections received. ELSA W. DALLAIL filed apparently false petition for admission to probate of will of GUY W. DALLAIL. Test check of merchandise purchased and sold during year 1939 indicates that all sales are recorded on books.

- P -

Reference: Report of Special Agent THOMAS M. FULHERIN (A), dated at Los Angeles, California, November 21, 1940

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## FINANCIAL HISTORY OF "I AM" MOVEMENT

Financial reports coming into the possession of the writer cover the period from January 1, 1935, to June 30, 1940. From such records it appears that the business of the "I AM" movement was at the beginning of 1935 conducted as a partnership venture by GUY W. BALLARD and ELNA W. BALLARD under the name SAINT GERMAIN PRESS. The proprietorship equity in the business was reflected in two accounts, one of which was known as the BALLARD PERSONAL ACCOUNT and the other of which was known as the SAINT GERMAIN FUND ACCOUNT. It is to be noted that the balance in the SAINT GERMAIN FUND ACCOUNT on January 1, 1935, was transferred to the BALLARD PERSONAL ACCOUNT. The assets of the business as shown by the books on January 1, 1935, amounted to $34,206.05, while the proprietorship equity in such assets amounted to $40,538.57. Schedule A attached to this report is a statement of assets and liabilities as shown by the records on January 1, 1935.

On March 24, 1936, the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION was incorporated. More detailed information as to this incorporation is included under the caption "ORGANIZATION OF SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION" of this report. Commencing in July, 1936, a portion of the cash receipts and sales were shown on the books of the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION and on October 31, 1936, a number of assets, liability, income and expense accounts were transferred from the books of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS to the books of the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION. From that date, the books, charts, and paraphernalia were for the most part purchased from the printers and makers by the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, some of such merchandise being sold by the PRESS to the ultimate consumer, and some being sold to the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION at a price between cost and marked sales price and then resold by the FOUNDATION to the ultimate purchasers. The price at which such articles were sold by the PRESS to the FOUNDATION was changed from time to time sometimes retroactively, by adjusting the discount allowed. The FOUNDATION is a non-profit corporation while the entire stock of the PRESS was controlled by GUY W. BALLARD and ELNA W. BALLARD, and in this manner the profits and losses of the two corporations appear to have been regulated to suit the desires of the BALLARDS.

On December 12, 1939, the books of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS were closed, and new books were opened for the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC., on which were entered the assets and liabilities appearing on the books of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS except that the BALLARD PERSONAL ACCOUNT was transferred to new accounts titled CAPITAL STOCK, PAID-IN SURPLUS and BALLARD PERSONAL ACCOUNT. More detailed information respecting this incorporation is included under the caption ORGANIZATION OF SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC., of this report. A summary of the causes of change in the proprietorship equity of the "I AM" Movement between January 1, 1935, and June 30, 1940, has been prepared from the books and is included as Schedule B of this report. Sub-summaries covering the years 1935, 1939, and the first six months of 1940, have likewise been prepared, and are shown as Schedules B-1, B-2, and B-3. It is to be observed that the 1939 schedule includes the business of the unincorporated PRESS only to December 11,

1939, and the 1940 schedule includes the business of the PRESS, INC. from December 12, 1939, to June 30, 1940. This results in some slight distortion of the sub-summaries but appeared the most practicable manner of coping with the fact that no inventory for the PRESS, INC. on December 31, 1939, is shown by the records. Both the summary and sub-summary may also reflect a higher than cost value for the inventories as details of these inventories were not made available to the writer and it is understood from the bookkeeper that the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION valued its inventories at the price paid the PRESS which is higher than what the press actually paid for the merchandise.

It will be noted from Schedules B, B-1, B-2, and B-3 that some of the receipts particularly in the case of contributions were not taken up through the profit and loss accounts but were directly credited to the BALLARD PERSONAL ACCOUNT or to Surplus or Reserve Accounts. MISS ANNA MAY MCGINNIS, bookkeeper of both the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION and the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, informed the writer that this was done for the reason that some of the contributions or "LOVE GIFTS" as they were known were made personally to the BALLARDS and, therefore, were not income of the "I AM" Movement. Attention is also drawn to the fact that Schedule B shows an investment of $15,417.51 during the years 1939 and 1940 in houses located at 1620 and 1624 East 84th Place, Chicago, Illinois, which investment does not appear on the books as an asset but is apparently considered as a personal asset of EDNA W. BALLARD, inasmuch as the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS is now charged $50.00 per month rent for the use of part of one of the houses as an office which amount is credited to the personal account of EDNA W. BALLARD.

In addition to the benefits to the BALLARDS and the other persons under indictment as shown by accounts in their names on the books of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS and SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION, benefits accrued to such persons which were charged to other expense accounts. Analyses of these expense accounts has been made and the benefits to Subjects is set forth in another section of this report.

SCHEDULE C of this report is a statement of assets and liabilities as at June 30, 1940. The following is a reconciliation of Schedules A, B, and C:

| | |
|---|---|
| Net Worth January 1, 1938, per Schedule A | $ 48,539.57 |
| Increase January 1, 1938, to June 30, 1940, per schedule B | 537,153.96 |
| | $585,692.53 |
| Decrease January 1, 1939, to June 30, 1940, per schedule B | 502,793.61 |
| Net Worth Per Schedule C June 30, 1940. | $ 82,898.92 |

In addition to the net worth of $22,0[illegible] on June 30, 1940, as shown by the books it is to be noted that substantially all of the suspense account of $5,435.10 will probably be net worth inasmuch as this account reflects the amount of receipts concerning the source of which the bookkeeper has not been advised by Mrs. EDNA W. BALLARD or her secretary, B. G. MUNDY. What has been said concerning the probable valuation of inventory at more than cost is also applicable to this schedule.

WITNESSES, BOOKS and RECORDS:

WILLIAM F. CALLAHAN, Post Office Inspector, Los Angeles, California
THOMAS M. MULHERIN, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, Los Angeles, California

On August 27, 1940, there was turned over to WILLIAM F. CALLAHAN, Post Office Inspector, and NORMAN W. NEUKOM, Assistant U. S. Attorney, a number of the books and records of the "I AM" Movement, by Attorneys CARR and GILBERT on behalf of EDNA W. BALLARD and the other defendants. These records were supplemented on October 1, 7, 15, and 22, 1940, by further records turned over to THOMAS M. MULHERIN, Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation by CHARLES CARR, attorney for the defendants. All of the records obtained used in connection with the preparation of Schedules A, B, and C are listed below. Those turned over to CALLAHAN and NEUKOM are indicated by the letter "C" appearing before the record, while those turned over to MULHERIN are indicated by the letter "M".

In addition to identifying the records turned over to him by CARR, Mulherin will testify that he prepared Schedules A, B, B-1, B-2, B-3 and C from the records listed and will furnish information as to the source of receipts and disbursements as indicated by those schedules.

SAINT GERMAIN PRESS- Chicago office:

General Ledger -- Two volumes;- M
Journal, including cash receipts, cash disbursements, purchases, sales, petty cash, credit memo, and general journal -- Three volumes;- M
Accounts Payable Ledger -- One volume;- M
Accounts Receivable Ledger -- Two volumes;- M
Cancelled checks and bank statements, Jan. 1, 1938 to Dec. 31, 1940;- M
Sales invoices Jan. 1, 1938, to Dec. 31, 1939;- M
Purchase invoices Jan. 1, 1938, to Dec. 31, 1939; - M
Bank books or Cash receipts lists Jan. 1, 1938, to Dec. 31, 1939; - M
Tour recapitulation sheets Jan. 1, 1938, to Dec. 31, 1939; - C
Tour reports, Jan. 1, 1938, to Dec. 31, 1939; - M
Petty Cash Vouchers, Year 1939; - M

SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC. — Chicago Office:

General Ledger — One volume; - C
Journal, including cash receipts, cash disbursements, purchases, sales, petty cash, credit memos, and general journal — one volume; - C
Accounts Receivable Ledger — One volume; - C
Cancelled checks and bank statements, Dec. 12, 1939, to July 31, 1940; - C
Duplicate deposit tickets Dec. 12, 1939, to July 31, 1940; - M
Sales invoices Dec. 12, 1939, to June 30, 1940; - M
Purchase invoices Dec. 12, 1939, to July 31, 1940; - M
Bank books or Cash receipts lists Dec. 12, 1939, to July 31, 1940; - C
Tour recapitulation sheets Dec. 12, 1939, to July 31, 1940; - C
Tour reports, Dec. 12, 1939, to July 31, 1940; - M
Minute book and stock certificate book — One volume; - C
Petty Cash Vouchers, Dec. 12, 1939, to July 31, 1940; - M
Statements and Journal Entries June 30, 1940

SAINT GERMAIN PRESS AND SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC. — Los Angeles, California.

General Ledger — One volume; - C
Journal, including cash receipts, cash disbursements, sales book and general journal — One volume; - C
Cancelled checks and bank statements January 1939, to July 31, 1940; - C
Sales invoices January 1939, to July 31, 1940; - C
Statements and Journal Entries June 30, 1940

SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION:

General Ledger — One volume; - C
Journal, including cash receipts, cash disbursements, sales journal, purchases journal and general journal — Two volumes; - C
Accounts Receivable Ledgers — Two volumes; - C
Cancelled checks and bank statements, April 1938, to July 31, 1940; - C & M
Duplicate deposit tickets, Jan. 1939, to June 30, 1940; - M
Sales invoices July 1938, to July 31, 1940; - M
Bank books or Cash Receipts lists, July 1938, to July 31, 1940; - C
Tour recapitulation sheets, November 1938, to July 31, 1940; - C
Tour reports November 1938, to July 31, 1940; - M
Minute book — One volume. - C
Statements and Journal Entries June 30, 1940

ANNA MAY MEGINNIS, 2112 Lyric Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

Will testify that she entered the employ of the BALLARDS as bookkeeper in May, 1935, and acted as such until August 24, 1940, and that she kept the Chicago Office records of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS and SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, Inc., and the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION from information furnished by the BALLARDS and B. O. MUNDY, their secretary, as to some cash receipts and disbursements as well as from purchase and sale invoices and checks. She will identify all records listed as being in possession of Post Office Inspectors except those kept at the Los Angeles Office.

JOHN C. KOSTER, 661 W. Jefferson Street, Los Angeles, California.

According to information furnished to P.O. Inspectors by witnesses, JOHN C. KOSTER kept the books of the Los Angeles Office of the St. Germain Press and St. Germain Press, Inc. KOSTER was indicted in this case but the indictment against him was nolle prossed. Assistant U. S. Attorney NORMAN NEUKOM stated to agent Mulherin that he would prefer to wait until time of trial to subpoena KOSTER for the purpose of having him identify the books.

B. A. JACKSON, 105 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Jackson made a number of adjusting entries including the amount of inventory as of June 30, 1940. These adjustments were not posted to the financial records of either the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION or the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC. The statements and journal entries prepared by him were turned over to Post Office Inspector CALLAHAN during the progress of this investigation and have been used by the writer in the preparation of the various schedules included in this report. It will be necessary for Jackson to explain that he obtained the information concerning this inventory and made the adjusting journal entries from records of the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION and SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC. (which records are not now in the possession of the Government) in order that a proper foundation may be laid for the testimony of the writer.

## ORGANIZATION OF SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION

The following information was obtained from the minute book and financial records of SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION now in the possession of Post Office Inspectors at Los Angeles, California.

On March 2, 1938, GUY W. BALLARD, EDNA W. BALLARD and HARRY N. ROGERS signed an agreement to become charter members of a non-profit corporation to be known as SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION. The purposes of the corporation which were set forth at considerable length are briefly to teach by word of mouth directly, through the radio and phonograph records, by the printed word and by other available means the doctrines of the "I AM" movement.

On March 24, 1938, the articles of incorporation of the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION were filed with the Secretary of State of Illinois, and on that date Certificate Number 6674 of the Secretary of State was signed authorizing the corporation to carry on business.

GUY W. BALLARD, EDNA W. BALLARD and HARRY N. ROGERS named themselves the first directors and assumed office as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| PRESIDENT: | GUY W. BALLARD |
| VICE PRESIDENT: | HARRY N. ROGERS |
| SECRETARY AND TREASURER: | EDNA W. BALLARD |

Financial records were not immediately opened for the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION. The first of such records were opened in July 1938, showing cash receipts and sales. Other records of activity were kept on the books of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS until October 31, 1938, when a number of asset, liability, profit and loss accounts were set up on the books of the FOUNDATION annotated to indicate that they had been taken over from the unincorporated SAINT GERMAIN PRESS.

The following balance sheet was prepared from the books of the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION as of December 31, 1938:

SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION
Balance Sheet as at December 31, 1938

ASSETS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Current Assets:** | | | |
| Cash | | $3,103.57 | |
| Accounts Receivable | | 669.84 | |
| Inventory | | 16,145.44 | |
| Total Current Assets | | | $19,918.85 |
| Ballard Personal Account | | | 1,290.91 |
| **Fixed Assets:** | Cost | Reserve for Depreciation | Net Value |
| Equipment | 4,875.33 | 972.87 | $3,902.46 |
| Automobiles | 9,052.47 | 1,436.36 | 7,616.11 |
| Total Fixed Assets | | | 11,518.57 |
| **Deferred Charges:** | | | |
| Unabsorbed Depreciation | | | 829.44 |
| | | | $33,557.77 |

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Current Liabilities:** | | |
| Magazine Subscriptions - Accounts Payable | $42.00 | |
| Mary Ketcham | 76.60 | |
| B. O. Mundy | 2,000.00 | |
| Notes Payable | 2,174.27 | |
| Sales Tax Payable | 48.98 | |
| Total Current Liabilities | | $4,341.85 |
| Owing to Saint Germain Press | | 14,384.77 |
| Excess of Assets Over Liabilities | | 14,831.15 |
| | | 33,557.77 |

The excess of assets over liabilities is the amount allegedly earned from the incorporation of the FOUNDATION in March until December 31, 1938.

On July 18, 1939, HARRY N. ROGERS resigned as Vice President and member of the Board of Directors, and on October 4, 1939, the resignation was accepted and PAUL A. POTTER was elected to succeed ROGERS.

On January 19, 1940, DONALD BALLARD was elected to succeed his father GUY W. BALLARD, who died on December 29, 1939. The present officers and directors therefore now consist of the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| PRESIDENT: | DONALD BALLARD |
| VICE PRESIDENT: | PAUL A. POTTER |
| SECRETARY AND TREASURER: | EDNA W. BALLARD |

The SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION issued no capital stock and the members of the FOUNDATION were such persons who might be selected by the Directors. The minutes are silent as to the names of the persons outside of the directors who were selected for membership.

WITNESS, BOOKS and RECORDS:

Same as set forth under heading "Financial History of I AM Movement."

## ORGANIZATION OF SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC.

The following information was obtained from an examination of the minute book of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC. which is presently in possession of Post Office Inspectors at Los Angeles, California.

On December 11, 1939, a subscription agreement was entered into proposing to organize the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC. under Illinois law for the purpose of printing, publishing, buying and selling books, pamphlets, letters, cards, literature, periodicals, publications and printed matter, and musical and art work. The subscribers were LOUISE MAJERUS, CECILE J. MAJERUS, and PAUL A. POTTER.

On December 12, 1939, certificate of incorporation No. 24,484 was issued by the Secretary of State of Illinois authorizing the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC. to commence business.

On December 19, 1939, the incorporators above named, who were also the first directors, assigned their stock 500 shares to Edna W. Ballard and 500 shares to GUY W. BALLARD. Their successors as officers were not named until January 19, 1940, when the following were elected:

PRESIDENT: DONALD BALLARD
VICE PRESIDENT: PAUL A. POTTER
SECRETARY & TREASURER: EDNA W. BALLARD

Although the articles of incorporation authorize the issuance of 2500 shares of capital stock of the par value of $10.00 each, only 1000 shares were issued as follows on December 19, 1939:

GUY W. BALLARD 500 SHARES
EDNA W. BALLARD 500 SHARES

The minute book recites that in consideration of the issuance of the capital stock all of the assets and liabilities of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, UNINCORPORATED, located at 1620 East 84th Place, Chicago, Illinois, and at 2608 South Hoover Street, Los Angeles, California, were to be transferred to the new corporation. To give effect to this authorization a journal entry was made on the books of the Chicago office of the corporation showing that the following assets were assumed and the following liabilities incurred:

SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC.
ASSETS TAKEN OVER and LIABILITIES ASSUMED DEC. 12, 1939

ASSETS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Current Assets: | | | |
| Cash | | $1,534.30 | |
| Accounts Receivable | | 1,284.38 | |
| Advance on Publication Contract | | 9,387.97 | |
| Inventory | | 32,398.12 | |
| Total Current Assets | | | $44,604.77 |
| Interbranch and Company Accounts: | | | |
| Due From St.Germain Press - Los Angeles Branch | | | 1,500.00 |
| Due From St.Germain Foundation | | | 21,284.77 |

| Fixed Assets: | Cost | Depreciation | Current Value | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Equipment | $674.47 | $274.50 | $399.97 | |
| Furniture & Fixtures | 808.98 | 163.00 | 645.98 | |
| Total Fixed Assets | | | | 1,045.95 |
| | | Total Assets | | $68,435.49 |

LIABILITIES and CAPITAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Liabilities: | | |
| Accounts Payable | $3,247.19 | |
| Credit Balances Accounts Receivable | 709.01 | |
| Notes Payable - C. Starrett | 3,000.00 | |
| Accrued Social Security Taxes | 183.76 | |
| L. Majerus | 2.80 | |
| Liabilities Exclusive of Ballard Accounts | | 7,142.76 |
| Capital Stock and Ballard Personal Account: | | |
| Capital Stock (1000 shares at $10 par) | 10,000.00 | |
| Paid in Surplus | 31,292.73 | |
| Mr. & Mrs. G.W.Ballard - Personal | 20,000.00 | |
| Total Capital, Surplus & Ballard Personal | | 61,292.73 |
| | | 68,435.49 |

It is to be noted that the assets and liabilities of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, Los Angeles Office, were not shown as being taken over and the old books were continued under the incorporation. As at December 31, 1939, the assets and liabilities of the Los Angeles Branch were shown as follows:

ASSETS:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Current Assets: | | |
| Cash | $3,468.45 | |
| Deposits on Purchase Contracts | 2,352.84 | |
| Inventory of Books, etc. | 2,910.18 | |
| Total Current Assets | | 8,731.47 |
| Fixed Assets: | | |
| Furniture and Fixtures | | 420.52 |
| Deferred Charges: | | |
| Deposit with Railway Express Agency | 3.16 | |
| Utility Deposits | 5.10 | 8.26 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 9,160.25 |

LIABILITIES AND DRAWING ACCOUNT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sales Advances | 5,090.50 | |
| John C. Koster, Drawing Account | 262.12 | 5,352.62 |
| Due to St. GERMAIN PRESS, INC., Chicago | | 3,685.85 |
| Capital and BALLARD Personal: | | |
| Ballard Personal Account | 500.00 | |
| Less Operating Deficit | 378.22 | 121.78 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL | | 9,160.25 |

The $2,185.85 difference between the Chicago and Los Angeles current accounts is represented by the purchases made by Los Angeles from Chicago of some small animated charts.

WITNESSES, BOOKS and CHARTS:
Same as set forth under title "Financial History of I AM Movement."

## BENEFITS TO SUBJECTS

An analysis was made of the various income, expense, surplus and drawing accounts of the ST. GERMAIN PRESS, the ST. GERMAIN PRESS, INC. and the ST. GERMAIN FOUNDATION for the period from January 1, 1938, to June 30, 1940, and from such examination disbursements on behalf of the following defendants (including GUY W. BALLARD) were ascertained:

| | |
|---|---|
| GUY W. BALLARD | $14,978.55 |
| EDNA W. BALLARD (includes amount spent for Chicago houses) | 38,335.73 |
| DOLAND BALLARD | 35,288.02 |
| BETTY O. MUNDY | 5,658.10 |
| FRANK VONDER HOYA | 5,415.46 |
| GRANT L. LEWIS | 6,098.28 |
| LOUISE MAJERUS | 3,525.00 |

The disbursements on account of MUNDY, VONDER HOYA, and LEWIS were for expenses while they accompanied the BALLARDS on tour. The amount listed for LOUISE MAJERUS was paid her as salary for acting in a clerical capacity at the Chicago office.

The books coming into the possession of the writer do not show the disbursements made for the benefit of PAUL STICKELL and WILLIAM J. CASSIERE, who went around the country giving lectures and holding classes in the "I AM" Movement, or of CHARLES SINDELAR and PEARL SINDELAR who operated the printing establishment which published the magazine known as "The Voice of the I Am." However, copies of the income tax statements of STICKELL and the SINDELARS have been obtained for the period from 1936 to 1939, inclusive, and summaries of such returns are set forth hereinafter. Post Office Inspectors advise that they have received information from the Bureau of Internal Revenue that WILLIAM J. CASSIERE did not file any income tax returns.

As an offset to the benefits to BETTY O. MUNDY, she turned over to the ST. GERMAIN FOUNDATION on January 15, 1940, as a contribution, the $2,000 balance of a $3,000 loan made by her to the BALLARDS in 1935 and 1936.

EDNA W. BALLARD owns 500 shares of the capital stock of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC. in her own name and the only other outstanding shares are the 500 in the name of GUY W. BALLARD, now deceased, who left a Will naming EDNA W. BALLARD his sole beneficiary. It therefore appears that in addition to being the beneficiary of the $38,335.73 expended as above mentioned, she is also the beneficiary of the net worth of the Movement as shown in Schedule C of this report.

Synoptic analyses of the benefits to subjects above mentioned appear under their names in the schedules appearing hereunder:

BENEFITS TO GUY W. BALLARD

| | 1938 | 1939 | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Meals | $3,333.10 | $ 604.80 | | $3,937.90 |
| Hotels | 1,736.22 | 3,691.62 | | 5,427.84 |
| Expenditures for G. W. Ballard Charged to General Expense | $ 24.41 | | | 24.41 |
| | 5,093.73 | 4,296.42 | | 9,390.15 |
| Personal Expenses - Schedule B | 2,489.04 | 2,175.39 | | 4,664.43 |
| Doctor, Sick Room and Funeral Expenses - Schedule B | | | $923.97 | |
| | $7,582.77 | 6,471.81 | 923.97 | 14,978.55 |

BENEFITS TO EDNA W. BALLARD

| | 1938 | 1939 | Jan.1,1940 June 30,1940 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Per Schedule B: | | | | |
| Personal Expenses | $3,413.07 | $2,171.03 | 185.90 | 5,770.00 |
| Rent of Home 1620 E.84th Place | 120.00 | 40.00 | | 160.00 |
| Expenses of Chicago Houses | 480.17 | 487.11 | 866.06 | 1,833.34 |
| Investment in Properties Located at 1620 and 1624 E. 84th Place, Chicago | | | | |
| Paid Home Owners Loan Corporation | | 1,635.90 | 230.65 | 1,866.55 |
| Paid A. A. Daley | | 2,506.50 | 4,726.05 | 7,232.55 |
| Paid G. W. Hall Macauley | | 3,600.00 | 1,864.16 | 5,464.16 |
| Furniture and Fixtures | | | 854.25 | 854.25 |
| Legal Expenses | | | 1,715.57 | 1,715.57 |
| Total From Schedule B | 4,013.24 | 10,440.54 | 10,442.64 | 24,896.42 |
| Personal Expenses of E. W. Ballard Charged to Expense Account: | | | | |
| Meals Purchased | 937.44 | 2,747.37 | 545.52 | 4,230.33 |
| Hotels | 3,704.02 | 1,754.75 | 2,413.42 | 7,872.19 |
| Sundry Tour Expenses | | | 1,159.49 | 1,159.49 |
| General Expenses | 119.25 | 14.35 | 43.70 | 177.30 |
| Grand Total | 8,773.95 | 14,957.01 | 14,604.77 | 38,335.73 |

## BENEFITS TO DONALD BALLARD

| | 1938 | 1939 | Jan.1,1940 June 30,1940 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Per Schedule B: | | | | |
| Cash Paid to Donald Ballard | $3,890.00 | $3,502.50 | $1,325.00 | $8,717.50 |
| Food,Clothing & Household Expenses | 2,746.55 | 593.98 | 1,246.34 | 4,586.87 |
| Rent-11,137 Montana Ave.,Los Angel. | 1,800.00 | 1,800.00 | | 3,600.00 |
| Moving Expenses | | | 169.55 | 169.55 |
| Rent-2545 N.Vermont Ave. " " | | 400.00 | 2,025.00 | 2,425.00 |
| Martha Skrabanck - Maid | 95.00 | 242.00 | | 337.00 |
| Marie Binder - Maid | | 60.00 | 233.00 | 293.00 |
| (Miscellaneous Personal Expenses | 247.03 | 37.80 | | 284.83 |
| (While Traveling | | | | |
| Automobile Expenses | 1,372.90 | 79.70 | 91.78 | 1,544.38 |
| Flying Lessons | 450.00 | 495.22 | 168.50 | 1,113.72 |
| Oscar Powers Detective Service | | | 63.50 | 63.50 |
| Legal Expenses - Divorce | | | 4,388.19 | 4,388.19 |
| Alimony Payments | | | 625.00 | 625.00 |
| | 10,601.48 | 7,211.20 | 10,335.86 | 28,148.54 |
| Expenditures for Donald Ballard's Benefit Not Charged Directly to him on Books: | | | | |
| Buick-Motor No. 93,577,128 Purchased 12-31-1938 and set up as asset of Foundation | 2,174.27 | | | 2,174.27 |
| Meals | 296.95 | 40.09 | 109.52 | 446.56 |
| Hotels | 1,151.51 | 561.78 | 482.50 | 2,195.79 |
| Bills Paid | 61.53 | 129.53 | | 191.06 |
| Personal Expenses Charged to Sundry Tour Expenses | | | 486.82 | 486.82 |
| Automobile Expense | 23.83 | 994.11 | 594.93 | 1,612.87 |
| Household Expenses Charged to Automobile Expenses | | | 32.11 | 32.11 |
| | $ 14,309.57 | 8,936.71 | 12,041.74 | 35,288.02 |

## BENEFITS TO BETTY O. MUNDY

| | 1938 | 1939 | Jan.1,1940 June 30,1940 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Meals | $438.22 | $446.07 | $159.48 | $1,043.77 |
| Hotels | 1,574.20 | 1,647.25 | 906.46 | 4,127.91 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses Paid | 164.05 | 209.64 | 107.91 | 481.60 |
| Expenses of BETTY O. MUNDY Charged to General Expense | | | 4.82 | 4.82 |
| | $2,176.47 | 2,302.96 | 1,178.67 | 5,658.10 |

## BENEFITS TO FRANK VONDER HOYA

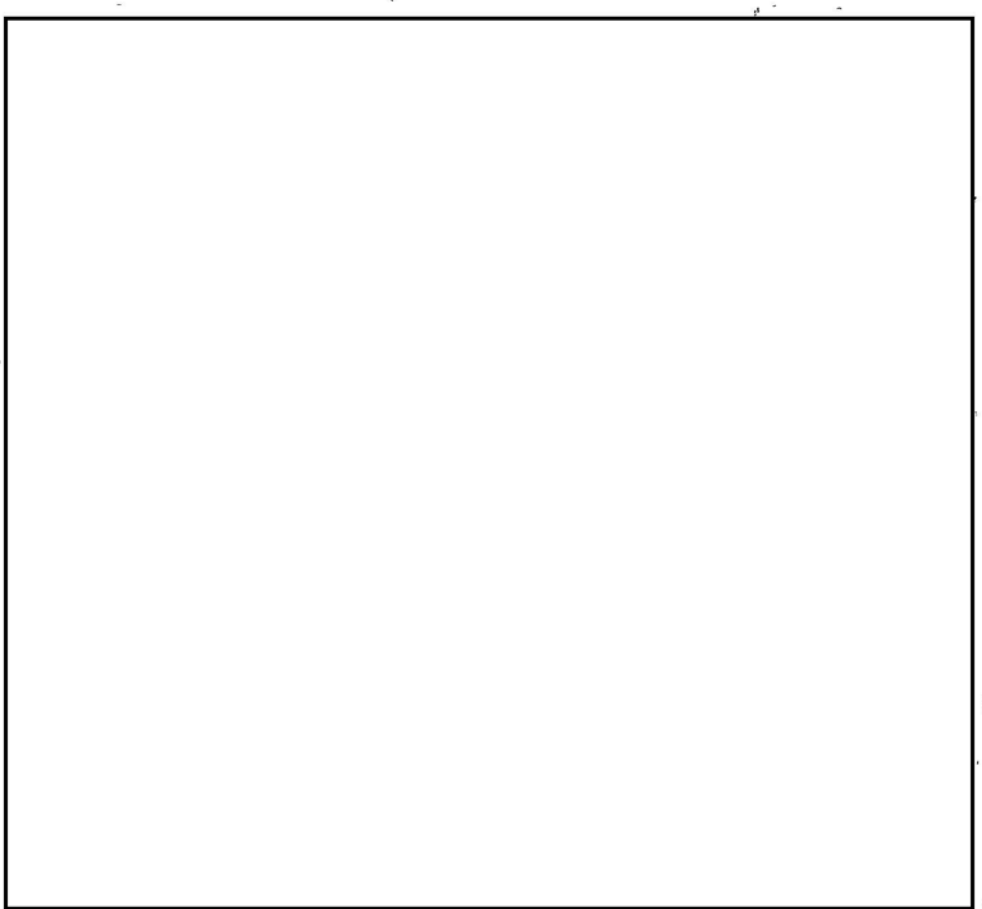
| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Meals | 423.13 | 460.53 | $261.99 | 1,145.65 |
| Hotels | 1,352.44 | 1,375.93 | 794. 02 | 3,522.39 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses Paid | 188.37 | 264.24 | 293.81 | 746.42 |
| Expenses of Vonder Hoya Charged to General Expense | 1.00 | | | 1.00 |
| | 1,964.94 | 2,100.70 | 1,349.82 | 5,415.46 |

## BENEFITS TO GRANT L. LEWIS

| | 1938 | 1939 | Jan.1,1940 June 30,1940 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Meals | $697.11 | 1,046.50 | 307.89 | 2,051.50 |
| Hotels | 1,375.09 | 1,257.71 | 741.72 | 3,374.52 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses Paid | 288.94 | 192.44 | 119.78 | 601.16 |
| Expenditures for LEWIS Charged to General Expenses | 46.55 | 1.60 | 22.95 | 71.10 |
| | 2,407.69 | 2,498.25 | 1,192.34 | 6,098.28 |

## BENEFITS TO LOUISE MAJERUS

| | 1938 | 1939 | Jan.1,1940 June 30,1940 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Salary | $1,225.00 | $1,425.00 | $875.00 | $3,525.00 |



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WITNESSES, BOOKS and RECORDS:

All the books and records set forth in this report under the caption "FINANCIAL HISTORY OF 'I AM' MOVEMENT" will be required as a basis for the introduction of the information as to benefits to subjects. In addition it will be necessary to introduce the certified copies of the income tax returns of PAUL STICKELL, and CHARLES AND PEARL SINDELAR for the years from 1936 to 1939, inclusive, which certified copies are now in possession of Post Office Inspectors.

Either Special Agents THOMAS M. MULHERIN or JAMES C. SLOANE can testify to the information set forth as to the benefits to subjects.

## FAILURE TO REPORT ALL RECEIPTS

BETTY O. MUNDY, secretary to EDNA W. BALLARD, made semi-monthly reports to the Chicago office of the ST. GERMAIN PRESS and ST. GERMAIN FOUNDATION showing amounts received from contributions and from the sale of books itemized as to days and indicating the disposition made of such receipts. These amounts are in addition to the amounts transmitted directly to the Chicago office by mail. The reports of BETTY O. MUNDY show that some checks received from contributors and purchasers together with a draft purchased in Los Angeles, or any other city where they might be, are sent to the Chicago office and that a portion of the receipts have been retained by the BALLARDS to defray the traveling and personal expenses of themselves and their assistants. In each instant the amount of checks, the draft and the monies stated to have been retained exactly equals the amount received from sales and contributions as reported by BETTY O. MUNDY.

PATON B. CROUSE, former secretary to GUY W. BALLARD, states that the amount of contributions reported by BETTY O. MUNDY is merely the amount of currency and checks received in the collection boxes at "I AM" classes and that the checks and currency received by the BALLARDS while they were on tour were not reported by BETTY O. MUNDY or even handled by her. CROUSE states that it was the practice of GUY W. BALLARD to open the mail and remove the currency and then turn over the checks to him, CROUSE, to be cashed. CROUSE said that he would then hand over to GUY W. BALLARD the cash received by him from cashing such checks and BALLARD would retain all this cash in his personal possession and make no accounting whatsoever for it. CROUSE said that the checks which he cashed were cashed at the various hotels at which the BALLARDS and their assistants stopped. CROUSE produced three lists of checks which he stated represented checks cashed by him at Washington, D. C. in November and December, 1939. These lists show 13, 18, and 21 checks totaling $783.75, $899.65 and $764.17 respectively. CROUSE stated that he prepared lists of the checks cashed by him in each instant and that, with the exception of the three lists which were in his possession at the time he severed relations with the BALLARDS all of such lists had been turned over to EDNA W. BALLARD or BETTY O. MUNDY by him.

Post Office Inspectors made investigations at the various cities where the BALLARDS had stopped on tour and, where such reports were available, obtained from the hotels and/or banks lists of the checks cashed. The writer summarized such checks and compared the total ascertained with amounts of cash and drafts forwarded to the Chicago office or reported as having been retained by the BALLARDS, and, as indicated by the schedule set forth next below, the amount so reported exceeds the amount of checks cashed in each instant. Schedule follows:

| | | Drafts or Cash Sent to Chicago or Amounts Retained For Expenses | Total of Checks Cashed At Hotels |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 -28-38 to 2 -6 -38 | San Francisco | $3,400.29 | $303.58 |
| 2 -18-38 to 2 -27-38 | Kansas City | 2,331.65 | |
| 3 -11-38 to 3 -21-38 | Cleveland | 2,775.74 | 1,002.00 |
| 4 - 8-38 to 4 -17-38 | Washington, D. C. | 3,856.40 | |
| 4 -27-38 to 5 - 8-38 | Detroit | 6,503.73 | 612.68 |
| 5 -24-38 to 6 - 5-38 | New York City | 8,891.10 | |
| 6 -12-38 to 6 -19-38 | Denver | 3,961.36 | 21.00 |
| 7 - 1-38 to 7 -17-38 | Los Angeles | 26,950.82 | 2,635.39 |
| 8 -26-38 to 9 - 4-38 | Oakland | 4,810.53 | 10.00 |
| 9 -16-38 to 9 -25-38 | Seattle | 4,691.95 | 211.75 |
| 10- 7-38 to 10-16-38 | Chicago | 5,831.81 | |
| 10-31-38 to 11-15-38 | Washington, D. C. | 2,816.36 | |
| 11-25-38 to 12- 4-38 | New York City | 4,412.46 | 1,357.71 |
| 12-23-38 to 1 - 3-39 | Los Angeles | 15,456.65 | 1,132.85 |
| 2 -17-39 to 2 -26-39 | Oakland | 3,857.63 | 2,770.50 |
| 3 -14-39 to 3 -16-39 | Denver | 2,555.07 | 250.88 |
| 4 - 2-39 to 4 -18-39 | Chicago | 16,659.01 | 1,415.00 |
| 4 -28-39 to 5 - 7-39 | New York City | 5,511.00 | 359.74 |
| 5 -26-39 to 6 - 5-39 | Washington, D. C. | 2,960.07 | |
| 6 -10-39 6 -11-39 | Oklahoma City | 1,[illegible].53 | |
| 6 -30-39 to 7 -16-39 | Los Angeles | 16,676.65 | 1,047.00 |
| 8 -13-39 to 8 -19-39 | San Francisco | 678.36 | |
| 8 -19-39 to 8 -27-39 | Berkeley | 3,041.10 | |
| 9 - 6-39 to 9 -10-39 | Minneapolis | 1,5[illegible].55 | 183.00 |
| 9 -23-39 to 10- 1-39 | Chicago | 5,451.15 | |
| *10-18-39 to 10-28-39 | Cleveland | 4,07[illegible].48 | 855.00 |
| *11- 5-39 to 11-14-39 | Philadelphia | 2,[illegible]0.58 | |
| *11-24-39 to 12- 3-39 | Washington, D. C. | 3,59[illegible].75 | 2,49[illegible].[illegible] |
| 12-28-39 to 1 - 7-40 | Los Angeles | 15,0[illegible]0.92 | 100.00 |
| 1 -23-40 to 2 - 3-40 | Los Angeles | 7[illegible].36 | 100.00 |
| March 1940 | Los Angeles | 5,500.00 | |
| April 1940 | Los Angeles | 2,934.95 | |
| May 1940 | Los Angeles | 3,055.55 | |
| June 1940 | Los Angeles | 7,[illegible]0.00 | |
| July 1940 | Los Angeles | 6,[illegible]3.39 | |
| | | $214,[illegible]3.63 | 17,[illegible]3.38 |

* Cash in Radio Fund Deposits not included

In view of the above situation it appears that the only testimony of value to prove the contention of CROUSE would be his own testimony possibly supplemented by testimony to the effect that the following amounts are shown as having been received from GUY W. BALLARD, no record of the receipt of such cash being shown in the reports of BETTY O. MUNDY.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| May 19, 1938 | Cashier's check, 5th Ave. Bank, New York, No. 180,956 | $1,000.00 |
| May 19, 1938, | Cashier's check, 5th Ave. Bank, New York, No. 180,995 | 1,000.00 |
| May 24, 1938, | Cash contributed to Song Fund by G G. W. Ballard | 350.00 |
| Dec.16, 1938, | Currency from G. W. Ballard | 1,000.00 |

WITNESSES, BOOKS AND RECORDS:

The books and records listed under "FINANCIAL HISTORY OF I AM MOVEMENT" should be used as the basis of the testimony of Special Agent Thomas M. Mulherin to the receipts of cash and cashier's checks from Guy W. Ballard not shown as received from contributions in the reports of BETTY O. MUNDY.

PATON B. CROUSE, Aztec Apartments, 5126 West Washington Bd., Los Angeles, Cal. To identify lists of checks cashed retained by him, and to testify regarding retention of contributions as indicated above.

## PORTION OF LEGAL CHARGES MADE TO SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION APPEAR TO BE FOR PERSONAL BENEFIT OF BALLARDS

As stated in another part of this report the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION was organized as a non-profit corporation. However, as discussed below it appears that a portion of the legal charges paid by that Corporation may have been for the personal benefit of the BALLARDS.

### PAYMENT TO EDWARD PRINDERVILLE

Journal voucher No.812 of the Saint Germain Foundation, which is recorded on page 11 of the general journal shows the expenditure of $1510.00 for legal services. This expenditure was made from funds previously received as contributions and mined by the BALLARDS. This journal voucher is supprted by a memorandum dated Dec. 30, 1938, signed by G. W. BALLARD as follows:

"STATEMENT OF MONEY PAID TO EDWARD PRINDERVILLE, Chicago, Illinois.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Oct. 15, '38 | Cash given Mr. Paul Potter for Mr. Edward Prinderville | 500.00 |
| Nov. 8 | Cash paid in Washington, D. C. to Mr. Edward Prinderville | 300.00 |
| Dec. 1 | Cash wired from New York City to Mr. Edward Prinderville—fees in Chicago suit | 300.00 |
| Dec. 20 | Cash wired from Los Angeles to Mr. Edward Prinderville--expenses trip to Los Angeles, Cal. | 300.00 |
| Dec. 28 | Cash given Mr. Prinderville in Los Angeles | 60.00 |
| Dec. 29 | Cash given Mr. Prinderville as he left Los Angeles for Chicago | 50.00 |
| | | $1,510.00" |

Mr. PATON CROUSE, former private secretary to GUY W. BALLARD stated that the monies paid PRINDERVILLE in connection with the Chicago suit above mentioned were to defend a suit brought by a Miss Ingraham against the BALLARDS because of misrepresentations made by GUY W. BALLARD in the sale of some oil or gold stocks prior to the time he started the "I AM" MOVEMENT. Mr. CROUSE said that a portion of the monies paid was for the purpose of having PRINDERVILLE obtain better hotel accomodations for the members of the "I AM", and that the monies advanced for the Los Angeles trip were for the purpose of combatting a Dr. GERALD BRYAN who had written a book allegedly exposing the "I AM" MOVEMENT. Mr. CROUSE said that PRINDERVILLE is now dead. More detailed information concerning the Chicago suit is being obtained by Post Office Inspectors.

## PAYMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF DONALD BALLARD'S DIVORCE

DONALD BALLARD was divorced from his wife MARJORIE BALLARD in early 1940. According to information received from Post Office Inspectors, the law firm of GIBSON, DUNN and CRUTCHER, and a Mr. Henry B. Ely of that firm represented DONALD BALLARD, and the firm of CLOCK, WESTMAN and CLOCK represented MARJORIE BALLARD. The books of the ST. GERMAIN PRESS, INC. and of the ST. GERMAIN FOUNDATION show the following expenditures during the period from January 1 to July 31, 1940, which appear to be in large part because of this divorce action:

| | |
|---|---|
| GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER | $4,876.88 |
| HENRY B. ELY | 1,000.00 |
| CLOCK, WESTMAN & CLOCK | 2,400.00 |
| JOHN LINWOOD HARRIS— Examination of Guest Document in connection with divorce | 100.00 |
| Total | $8,376.88 |

A complete itemization of the above listed charges does not appear among the records coming into the possession of the writer. However, it does appear from the records which are available that of the amounts paid GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER $75.00 was for a will, that $40.60 was in connection with recording the articles of incorporation of the ST. GERMAIN FOUNDATION in the state of California, and that a claim of PATON CROUSE was handled in connection with the divorce action. However, no full explanation appears among the records as to why $1,761.18 of the above recorded expenditures should have been made against the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION. The $8,376.82 above mentioned was charged on the books in the following manner:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| On ST. GERMAIN FOUNDATION BOOKS: | | |
| To Accounting and Legal Expense | $1,761.18 | |
| On ST. GERMAIN PRESS, INC. BOOKS: | | |
| To Accounting and Legal Expense | 581.94 | |
| To Expense Account in name of DONALD BALLARD | 4,388.19 | |
| To Drawing Account of EDNA W. BALLARD | 1,645.57 | |
| Total | $8,376.88 | |

WITNESSES, BOOKS and RECORDS:

Either Special Agent THOMAS M. MULHERIN or JAMES C. SLOANEcan testify that the above information concerning charges made was obtained from the books and records listed under the caption "FINANCIAL HISTORY OF 'I AM' MOVEMENT."

## FALSE PETITION FOR ADMISSION OF WILL TO PROBATE FILED BY EDNA W. BALLARD

Under date of January 17, 1940, EDNA W. BALLARD swore to and filed with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Cook County, Illinois a petition for admission of will to probate to which she attached the last will and testament of GUY W. BALLARD dated December 15, 1939, in which he gave and bequeathed to EDNA W. BALLARD all the property of which he might die possessed. The petition recited that GUY W. BALLARD had an estate the total value of which did not exceed $7,500, at the time of his death, December 29, 1939.

In this connection attention is invited to the section of this report captioned "ORGANIZATION OF SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC." from which it will be noted that on December 15, 1939, the capital stock of the ST. GERMAIN PRESS, INC. was half in the name of GUY W. BALLARD and the other half in the name of EDNA W. BALLARD, and that the BALLARDS had a joint equity of $61,414.51 in the business, half of which or $30,707.25 appears to have been the property of GUY W. BALLARD. Also, while the books were not closed on December 29, 1939, the date of GUY W. BALLARD'S death, it will be noted from an examination of Schedule C of this report that the BALLARD equity in the ST. GERMAIN PRESS, INC. (including both the Chicago and Los Angeles offices) amounted to $64,575.54 on June 30, 1940.

If it should become possible to introduce this evidence during the course of the trial the information can be shown by causing to be placed in evidence authenticated copies of the petition for admission of will to probate, which is being obtained by Post Office Inspectors, and having Special Agent THOMAS M. MULHERIN testify to the equity of the BALLARDS in the ST. GERMAIN PRESS, INC. as shown by the books of that corporation.

## Volume of MERCHANDISE HANDLED and Test for POSSIBLE UNIT SHORTAGE

Information was received from several witnesses to the effect that the BALLARDS had failed to account for all the monies taken in by them. Special Assistant to the Attorney General RUFFIN asked, in view of this, that a check be made to determine whether or not it appeared that an accounting had been made for the various articles sold by them. A test check, covering the whole of the year 1939, and involving an examination of 6309 invoices together with purchase invoices and inventories was made. Such check revealed no substantial difference except the following shortages:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Phonograph records | 1965 at selling price of $2.50 | $4,887.50 |
| Large Charts | 271 at selling price of $15.00 | 4,065.00 |

Miss Anna May Meginnis, bookkeeper for the Saint Germain Press and Foundation stated that the above shortages were probably accounted for by the fact that during the latter part of 1939, the BALLARDS ordered the destruction of a large number of records which had been made by Mrs. Harry N. Rogers, soloist, after the latter's dismissal from the "I AM" Movement. Miss Meginnis also stated that 266 large charts had been destroyed in June, 1939, upon instructions of Mrs. Edna W. BALLARD because, in the latter's opinion, the red appearing in such charts was too bright and the use of bright red is condemned by the leaders of the "I AM" because "it emanates a destructive vibration."

As indicative of the volume of merchandise sold by the Saint Germain Press and Saint Germain Foundation the following list of sales for the year 1939 together with the marked sales price of such articles is shown next below:

| BOOKS: Description | NO. SOLD | Marked Unit SALES PRICE |
|---|---|---|
| UNVEILED MYSTERIES | 4,956 | $2.50 |
| MAGIC PRESENCE | 3,527 | 2.75 |
| I AM DISCOURSES | 2,206 | 2.75 |
| I AM ADORATIONS AND AFFIRMATIONS | 533 | 1.00 |
| Loose Leaf Decree Binders | 4,656 | 1.25 |
| ASCENDED MASTERS DISCOURSES | 2,332 | 2.75 |
| I AM ADORATIONS, AFFIRMATIONS AND DECREES | 4,384 | 1.75 |
| ASCENDED MASTER LIGHT | 2,455 | 5.00 |
| I AM SONG BOOKS | 5,377 | .50 |
| OUTLINES | 18,535 | .05 |
| Small ANIMATED CHARTS (First sold Nov. 1939) | 65 | 50.00 |
| Large ANIMATED CHARTS (Not sold until Feb. 1940 during which month 27 were sold) | | 200.00 |
| LARGE FLAME | 11 | 200.00 |
| SMALL FLAME | 98 | 50.00 |
| Small MAGIC PRESENCE CHARTS | 4,735 | 1.00 |
| Large MAGIC PRESENCE CHARTS | 578 | 15.00 |
| Phonograph Records | 3,516 | 2.50 |
| VOICE OF THE I AM —Monthly Magazines | 49,190 | .35 |
| Bound Volume of Year's Issue of Magazines | 149 | 4.25 |
| Pictures | 1,261 | 50¢ to 2.00 |
| Paper Decree Books | 2,353 | .25 |
| Loose Leaf Decrees and Songs | 261,932 | .02 |
| Sheet Music | 15,929 | 1.00 |

In addition to the above listed merchandise there were some American Flags and some trinkets sold on which unit purchases and sales were not computed.

L. A. #36-133

## CONCLUSION

The investigative activity covered by this report was performed by Special Agents (A) THOMAS M. MULHERIN and JAMES C. SLOANE.

Special Assistant to the Attorney General RUFFIN and Assistant United States Attorneys NEUKOM and LAZARUS, who are handling this case, have stated that they may not use the witness B. A. JACKSON. As much of the information appearing in Schedule B, Schedules B-3 and C is based on journal entries made by JACKSON from records for 1940 which have not come into the possession of the writer, it will be necessary to completely revise these schedules in the event JACKSON is not used.

## UNDEVELOPED LEADS

### THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION:

#### AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:

During the course of the trial of this case, which commences on December 3, 1940, descriptions and personal histories of defendants will be obtained. This information will be included in a subsequent report.

Will follow prosecutive action.

During course of trial, will obtain and examine books of TED DAHL Advertising Agency to determine amount of monies turned over to "I AM" MOVEMENT through that agency and the disposition of such monies.

P E N D I N G

Best Availabe Copy

West Virginia Press

Assets and Liabilities January 1, 1938

As Shown by Books

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS:** | | | | |
| Cash | | | 3930 21 | |
| Accounts Receivable | | | 757 85 | |
| Inventory | | | 3481 23 | |
| | Book Value | Reserve for Depreciation | | |
| Fixtures | 7927 72 | 1782 99 | 6144 73 | |
| Equipment | 3203 98 | 950 59 | 2253 39 | |
| Furniture and Fixtures | 558 99 | 69 92 | 489 07 | |
| Deferred Charges: | | | | |
| Advance on Publication Contract | | | 4211 82 | |
| Auto Lease deposit | | | 425 00 | |
| Hall Rental deposits | | | 350 00 | |
| Deferred Returns & Expense | | | 832 55 | |
| Total Assets Per Books | | | | 54206 85 |
| **LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS:** | | | | |
| Ondrake National Building Bank | | | 1387 85 | |
| Accounts Payable | | | 1017 22 | |
| Loans Payable to Stockholders | | | 3162 80 | |
| Sales Tax Payable | | | 1004 41 | 5668 28 |
| **CAPITAL:** | | | | |
| Ballard Personal Account | | | 32627 33 | |
| State Centennial Fund Account | | | 15911 24 | |
| Total Capital Per Books | | | | 48538 57 |
| Total Liabilities and Capital | | | | 54206 85 |

Best Availabe Copy

[illegible] Seal Press and Foundation [illegible]
Summary of [illegible] and Decreases in Net Worth [illegible]
[illegible] 1938 to June 30, 1939

| Items | Seal Press Published in [illegible] | Foundation Collected [illegible] | [illegible] Published in [illegible] | [illegible] Collected [illegible] | [illegible] Published in Reports | [illegible] | [illegible] | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CAUSES OF INCREASE** | | | | | | | | |
| [illegible] | 200385 15 | 7919 32 | 72717 31 | 30360 69 | | [illegible] | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Clubs, Magazines, etc. [illegible] | 215782 54 | | 128657 93 | | 23282 92 | | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Other Income | 390 33 | | 214 75 | 1011 02 | | | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Total Income | 415655 07 | 7919 32 | 201791 99 | 31377 71 | 23282 92 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| **CAUSES OF DECREASE** | | | | | | | | |
| Cost of [illegible] Sales | 125003 77 | | 17011 90 | | 12712 12 | | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Allowances and Expenses | | 75 47 | 2301 07 | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Personal Expenditures Guy W. Ballard | | 3993 [illegible] | | 534 52 | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Rooms and Personal Expenses Guy W. Ballard | | | | 923 97 | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Personal Expenditures Edna W. Ballard | | 2211 29 | | 3555 61 | | | | [illegible] |
| Hotels and Meals | 61054 50 | | 5866 59 | | | | | [illegible] |
| Railroad and Airplane Travel | 13357 11 | | 1371 50 | 200 00 | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Expense | 11775 03 | | 1486 40 | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Expenses | 60388 25 | | 4820 51 | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Platforms | 74015 79 | | 3365 50 | | | | | [illegible] |
| Payroll and Commissions | 2230 30 | | 16409 00 | | 5379 [illegible] | | | [illegible] |
| Office Expenses and Supplies | 3357 65 | | 1801 18 | | 160 71 | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | 11 93 | | 1406 70 | 160 00 | 195 [illegible] | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] and Legal | 7257 25 | | 3225 39 | 1715 57 | | | | [illegible] |
| Telegraph and Telephone | 3007 19 | | 593 50 | | | | | [illegible] |
| Postage | 1757 36 | | 932 22 | | 65 28 | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | 1268 95 | | 1923 11 | | 315 91 | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Books, [illegible] etc. [illegible] | 795 39 | | 22 33 | | 507 [illegible] | | | [illegible] |
| Scholarship Tuition I AM School | 50 00 | | 100 00 | 1300 00 | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | 1023 40 | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] and Art Supplies | 1376 82 | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] and Storage Expense | 1154 98 | | 2030 37 | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | 1575 00 | | 1039 74 | 17 19 | [illegible] | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Tax | | | | 1395 78 | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Tax | 644 81 | | 153 61 | | [illegible] | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Benefits to [illegible], Expenses, etc. | | | | 17 00 | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Hosts [illegible] | | | 1396 63 | 436 66 | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | 990 54 | | 131 23 | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | 7295 62 | 1130 00 | 507 85 | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Expense | 1390 55 | | 633 84 | [illegible] | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] 1620 and [illegible] | | | | | | | | |
| [illegible] | | | | 1566 55 | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Hall [illegible] | | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| Total Decreases | 400557 02 | 7736 [illegible] | 77323 [illegible] | 21130 72 | [illegible] | | 18345 [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Net Increase | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | | | [illegible] |
| Net Decrease | | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| | 415655 07 | [illegible] | 201791 99 | 31377 71 | 23282 92 | | [illegible] | |

Best Availabe Copy

Saint Germain Press and Foundation
Summary of Increases and Decreases in Net Worth [illegible]
For Calendar Year 193[illegible]

| | St. Germain Foundation [illegible] | [illegible] | St. Germain Press [illegible] | [illegible] | Eliminating Intercompany Purchases and Sales | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CAUSES OF INCREASE:** | | | | | | |
| Contributions | 74 322 67 | | 12 717 31 | 13 510 37 | | 100 [illegible] 35 |
| Sales of Books, Charts, [illegible] | 77 [illegible] | | 74 [illegible] | | 46 163 45 | 107 575 78 |
| Miscellaneous Other Income | 54 [illegible] | | 144 [illegible] | | | 175 65 |
| Total Income | 15[illegible] | | 87 15[illegible] | 13 530 37 | | 205 [illegible] 78 |
| **CAUSES OF DECREASE:** | | | | | | |
| Cost of Sales | 32 5[illegible] | | 34 537 12 | | 46 163 45 | 20 576 13 |
| [illegible] Allowances [illegible] | | 75 77 | 10 526 01 | | | 10 601 78 |
| Miscellaneous Personal Expenditures [illegible] | | 404 31 | | 2 004 15 | | 2 459 04 |
| Miscellaneous Personal Expenditures [illegible] | | 431 [illegible] | | 2 [illegible] | | 3 [illegible] 07 |
| Hotels and Meals | 33 777 [illegible] | | 5 866 59 | | | 39 644 20 |
| Railroad and Traveling Tickets | 6 234 01 | | 1 378 53 | 300 00 | | 7 402 51 |
| Automobile Expense | 4 569 [illegible] | | 1 49[illegible] | | | 6 05[illegible] |
| Radio Expenses | [illegible] | | 6 33[illegible] 51 | | | 27 720 63 |
| Halls and Platforms | 32 [illegible] | | 3 3[illegible] | | | 35 98[illegible] 36 |
| Payroll and Commissions | | | 5 579 50 | | | 5 579 50 |
| Office Expenses and Supplies | 1 3[illegible] 02 | | 1 207 11 | | | 2 56[illegible] 13 |
| Rent | | | 450 [illegible] | 13 [illegible] | | [illegible] |
| Accounting and Legal | 2 303 [illegible] | | 786 [illegible] | | | 3 09[illegible] 72 |
| Telegraph and Telephone | 1 1[illegible] | | 430 44 | | | 1 613 22 |
| Postage | 643 [illegible] | | 520 49 | | | 1 171 81 |
| Advertising | 41[illegible] 15 | | 334 22 | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | 18[illegible] | | 50 [illegible] | | | [illegible] |
| Scholarship Tuition, I AM School | | | 100 00 | 500 00 | | 600 00 |
| Shipping and Storage Expenses | 40[illegible] 07 | | 705 00 | | | 1 1[illegible] |
| Depreciation | 2 4[illegible] | | 7[illegible] 24 | 17 17 | | [illegible] |
| Income Tax | | | | 541 77 | | [illegible] |
| All Other Taxes | 4[illegible] | | 761 72 | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] to [illegible] Expenses, etc. | | | | 17 00 | | [illegible] |
| Exposition of Chimney [illegible] | | | 450 17 | | | [illegible] |
| Special Expense | 2 507 40 | | [illegible] | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Accounts | 3 22[illegible] 56 | 500 00 | 505 35 | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] and Sundry [illegible] Expenses | 2 0[illegible] 46 | | 677 04 | 64 [illegible] | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | 13[illegible] 577 17 | 1 29[illegible] 97 | 5[illegible] 936 [illegible] | 3 [illegible] | | [illegible] |
| Net Increase [illegible] | 16 765 73 | | [illegible] 76 72 | [illegible] | | [illegible] |
| Net Decrease [illegible] | | [illegible] | | | | |
| [illegible] | 153 [illegible] | [illegible] | 77 3[illegible] 56 | 13 [illegible] | | 2[illegible] |
| [illegible] Total [illegible] | | | | | | |

Best Availabe Copy

[illegible] Saint Germain Press and Foundation
Summary of Increases and Decreases in Net Worth Per Books
Year 1939 (Chicago Press Office to Dec. 11, 1939 only)

| | St. Germain Foundation — Sales & Lect. Amount | St. Germain Foundation — Ballard Personal and [illegible] | Chicago Office — Profit and Loss Amount | Chicago Office — Ballard Personal and I AM School Amount | Los Angeles Office — Profit & Loss Amount | Los Angeles Office — Ballard Personal Amount | Eliminate Intercompany Purchases and Sales | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAUSES OF INCREASE: | | | | | | | | |
| Contributions | 87957 27 | 7989 32 | | 11357 78 | | 500 00 | | [illegible] |
| Sales of Books, Charts, Magazines etc. less Discount | 87103 24 | | 66341 84 | | 10440 75 | | 69951 14 | [illegible] |
| Miscellaneous Other Income | 111 80 | | 70 48 | 85 95 | | | | [illegible] |
| Total Increase | 171274 31 | 7989 32 | 66412 32 | 11445 73 | 10440 75 | 500 00 | 69951 14 | [illegible] |
| CAUSES OF DECREASE: | | | | | | | | |
| Cost of Sales | 61697 04 | | 46427 01 | | 6340 58 | | 69951 14 | [illegible] |
| Travel Ballard Allowance and Expenses | | | 7211 20 | | | | | [illegible] |
| Miscellaneous Personal Expenditures G. W. Ballard | | 1155 04 | | 330 35 | | | | [illegible] |
| Miscellaneous Personal Expenditures Edna W. Ballard | | 1780 54 | | 347 19 | | | | [illegible] |
| Hotels and Meals | 26084 03 | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| Railroad and Airplane Travel | 5207 94 | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| Automobile Expense | [illegible] | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| Halls Expense | 31802 53 | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| Bills and [illegible] forms | 31577 57 | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| Salaries and Commissions | | | 6404 50 | | 3045 00 | | | [illegible] |
| Office Expenses and Supplies | 1481 74 | | 420 75 | | 135 80 | | | [illegible] |
| Rent | | | 176 70 | 40 00 | 550 00 | | | [illegible] |
| Accounting and Legal | 931 00 | | 705 00 | | | | | [illegible] |
| Telegraph and Telephone | 1201 48 | | 82 24 | | | | | [illegible] |
| Postage | 952 59 | | 279 51 | | 35 47 | | | [illegible] |
| Advertising | 350 00 | | 1564 89 | | 215 71 | | | [illegible] |
| Cost of Books, Charts etc. to Students | [illegible] | | 69 39 | | 307 87 | | | [illegible] |
| Scholarship, Tuition, I AM School | 50 00 | | | 500 00 | | | | [illegible] |
| Cleaning | 1023 40 | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| Laboratory and Art Supplies | 135 45 | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| Shipping and Storage Expense | 615 72 | | 760 54 | | | | | [illegible] |
| Depreciation | 4450 11 | | 109 19 | | | | | [illegible] |
| Income Tax | | | | 790 63 | | | | [illegible] |
| All Other Taxes | 340 15 | | 751 48 | | 14 52 | | | [illegible] |
| Expenses of Chicago House | | | 451 27 | 35 84 | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Expenses | 2740 45 | | 680 47 | | 174 25 | | | [illegible] |
| Bills Paid for Assistant | 3702 18 | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Sunday Tour Expense | 3204 36 | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Properties located at [illegible] and [illegible] Chicago, Ill. | | | | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Expenditures [illegible] | | | | [illegible] | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Principal and [illegible] | | | | 3506 50 | | | | [illegible] |
| W. Ballard [illegible] | | | | [illegible] | | | | [illegible] |
| Total Decrease | 136094 67 | 3635 58 | 66605 59 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Net Increase | | [illegible] | | [illegible] | | | | [illegible] |
| Net Decrease | [illegible] | | [illegible] | | [illegible] | | | [illegible] |
| | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

Saint Germain Press Inc. and Foundation
Summary of Increases and Decreases in Net Worth Per Books
January 1 to June 30, 1940 (St. Germain Press Inc. Chicago Office From Dec. 12, 1939)

| CAUSES OF INCREASE: | St. Germain Foundation — Profit & Loss Amount | St. Germain Press Inc. Chicago — Profit & Loss Amount | St. Louis — Amount | Los Angeles — Profit & Loss Amount | [illegible] | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Contributions | 36,723.21 | | 5,412.04 | | | [illegible] |
| Sales of Books, Charts, Magazines etc. Less Discounts | 53,994.05 | 48,160.11 | | 13,347.17 | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Miscellaneous Other Income | 124.20 | | 925.07 | | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Total Increase | 90,841.46 | 48,160.11 | 6,341.11 | 13,347.17 | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| **CAUSES OF DECREASE:** | | | | | | |
| Cost of Sales | 21,836.03 | 23,450.03 | | 6,371.54 | 35,656.86 | [illegible] |
| Guy Ballard — Allowance and Expense | | 10,335.66 | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Funeral Expense Guy W. Ballard | | | 723.97 | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Personal Expenditures Edna W. Ballard | | | 135.90 | | | [illegible] |
| Hotels and Meals | 11,190.82 | | | | | [illegible] |
| Railroad and Airplane Travel | 2,125.16 | | | | | [illegible] |
| Automobile Expense | 3,394.99 | | | | | [illegible] |
| Radio Expenses | 7,685.20 | | | | | [illegible] |
| Halls and Platforms | 9,893.36 | | | | | [illegible] |
| Payroll and Commissions | 7,230.00 | 4,420.00 | | 2,335.00 | | [illegible] |
| Office Expense and Supplies | 516.89 | 173.32 | | 24.91 | | [illegible] |
| Rent | 12.00 | 750.00 | | 345.00 | 750.00 | [illegible] |
| Accounting and Legal | 3,017.37 | 1,741.52 | 1,715.57 | | | [illegible] |
| Telegraph and Telephone | 624.43 | 77.77 | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | 131.45 | 124.22 | | 32.81 | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | | 24.00 | | | | [illegible] |
| Other [illegible] Charitable [illegible] | 76.41 | 100.64 | | 20.94 | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | | | | | | [illegible] |
| Printing and Art Supplies | 1,972.87 | | | | | [illegible] |
| Shipping and Storage Expense | 137.19 | 564.53 | | | | [illegible] |
| Depreciation | 3,504.39 | 137.21 | | 31.00 | | [illegible] |
| Income Tax | | | 363.03 | | | [illegible] |
| Other Taxes | 358.67 | 70.21 | | 327.91 | | [illegible] |
| Expenses of Chicago House | | 465.24 | 400.52 | | | [illegible] |
| Other Expenses | 240.69 | 192.54 | | 141.33 | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Amortization | 1,171.94 | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] Tour Expense | 3,135.73 | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] 1930 and [illegible] | | | | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | | | [illegible] | | | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Total [illegible] | 77,735.16 | 42,529.19 | [illegible] | 9,698.49 | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Net [illegible] | 12,111.30 | 5,336.92 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

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Saint Germain Foundation and Saint Germain Press, Inc.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at [illegible]

| ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS: | Saint Germain Foundation | Saint Germain Press — Los Angeles | Saint Germain Press — Chicago Office | Eliminations | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cash | 3219.01 | 4938.79 | 1756.58 | | 9914.38 |
| Accounts Receivable - Inter-company | | | 15936.80 | 15936.80 | |
| Accounts Receivable - Inter-Office | | | 5247.96 | 5247.96 | |
| Other Accounts Receivable | 1374.- | 3450. | | | 4824.65 |
| Inventory | 35513.- | 6193.45 | 90137.98 | | 131844.43 |
| Fixed Assets less Reserves for Depreciation: | | | | | |
| Automobiles | 6272.07 | | | | 6272.07 |
| Equipment | 4556.19 | | | | 4556.19 |
| Furniture and Fixtures | | 503.21 | 1778.61 | | 2281.82 |
| Deferred Charges: | | | | | |
| Advances on Publications, Charges and | | 1865.02 | 4906.70 | | 6771.72 |
| Deposit with American Airlines | 435.05 | | | | 435.05 |
| Unamortized Organization Exp. etc. | 4147.72 | | | | 4147.72 |
| Total Assets and Other Debits | 41209.15 | 9238.45 | 69754.63 | 21184.76 | 199017.57 |
| LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS: | | | | | |
| Overdraft - National Bank of Commerce | | | 683.30 | | 683.30 |
| Accounts Payable | 151.67 | 417.46 | 7426.45 | | 7995.58 |
| Note Payable - Charles Skinner | | | 5000.00 | | 5000.00 |
| John C Kistler Promissory Note | | 347.57 | | | 347.57 |
| Total Liabilities Saint Germain Foundation | 151.67 | 765.03 | 8448.75 | | 9365.45 |
| CAPITAL: | | | | | |
| Saint Germain Foundation Capital Equity | | | | | 13032.52 |
| Saint Germain Press Capital Stock | | | 10000.00 | | 10000.00 |
| Paid in excess | | | 30572.30 | | 30572.30 |
| Earned Surplus | | 2764.46 | 5511.99 | | 8276.45 |
| Mrs Belland Personal Account | | 502.- | 17201.59 | | 17703.59 |
| Reserve for Building Fund | 301.00 | | | | 301.00 |
| Total Proprietorship Equity | 15323.58 | 3269.46 | 61305.88 | | 79898.86 |
| Suspense Account | 5733.90 | | | | 5733.90 |
| INTERCOMPANY AND INTEROFFICE ACCOUNTS: | | | | | |
| Intercompany Liabilities | 15936.80 | | | 15936.80 | |
| Inter office Liabilities | | 5247.96 | | 5247.96 | |
| Total Liabilities and Capital | 41209.15 | 9238.45 | 69754.63 | 21184.76 | 199017.57 |

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

BUTTE, MONTANA

100-48 December 6, 1940

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/29/82 BY SP6 BT/MLW

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: "I AM" GROUP,
BILLINGS, MONTANA.

62-56722-444
RECORDED & INDEXED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 10 1940
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Dear Sir:

Recently Patrolman JAMES HIRST, NPA graduate of the Billings Police Department, reported to Special Agent W. T. GRAY of the Butte Field Division that there was being conducted meetings by a group of Billings women at the address of 3312 Fourth Avenue North in Billings, Montana.

Mr. BEN HAGERMAN, who operates a grocery store across the street from 3312 Fourth Avenue North, was contacted by Special Agent GRAY and Patrolman HIRST, and he advised that the house wherein these secret meetings are being conducted is owned by Mrs. B. F. MARTIN who resides at 43 Clark Avenue, Billings, Montana. HAGERMAN stated that this house is used as a meeting place for the "I AM" Religious Group, and is not used as a dwelling house. He further stated that his grocery store is also a sub-agency for the post office, and as such, sells money orders. In this connection, he advised that Mrs. ROY PATTERSON of 133 Broadwater Avenue, Billings, Montana, is apparently the secretary for the "I AM" group, and she occasionally purchases postal money orders at his store which are made out in care of the Saint Germain Press, Box 1133, Chicago, Illinois. HAGERMAN stated further that it is his opinion that these money orders are used for the purchase of literature for the group.

He stated further that the women are rather secretive in their meetings, and always use the back door of the house at 3312 Fourth Avenue North rather than using the front door.

Subsequent to the interview with HAGERMAN, it was reported by FRANK HOULE of Billings, Montana, to Assistant United States Attorney ROY F. ALLAN, that there is a pro-German meeting place located on Fourth Avenue North directly across the street from the Hagerman Grocery Store. He further advised, according to Mr. ALLAN, that pictures of HITLER and STALIN had been seen on the wall, and that the individuals who congregate there sing German songs.

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In view of the fact that this religious sect has been brought to the attention of the Bureau on numerous other occasions, no further investigation will be conducted by the Butte Field Division unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

W. G. Banister

W. G. BANISTER
Special Agent in Charge

GND:EG

FILES DIVISION
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Washington. D.C. Dec.17,1940

Dear Mr. Hoover:

This advertising matter was sent to me. I know nothing about it. Maybe its something you should investigate - this "mystic fifth column."

Lottie V. Baker
1352 Parkwood Pl. NW

(No answer necessary)

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DATE 11/29/12 BY SP8 STP/mw

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-45

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
1 DEC 18 194[illegible]
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FIVE

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THE NEW ERA PRESS, Publishers
P. O. Drawer 151
Burbank, California

ORDER BLANK

Residents of California should include sales tax.

You will find enclosed $2.50 for which please send me at once, the book entitled-

"PSYCHIC DICTATORSHIP IN AMERICA"

All shipping and handling charges to be prepaid by you. Send book to

Name_____ Street or RFD_____

City or Town_____ State_____

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DATE 11-29-82 YSG BY

FROM

The NEW ERA PRESS
Burbank
California

DRAWER 151

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# Revealing the World's Weirdest

# DICTATORSHIP

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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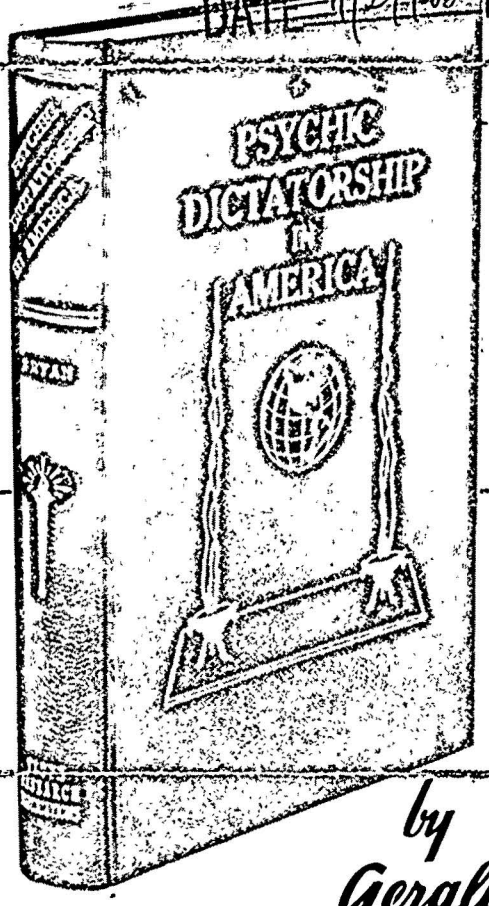
DATE 11-29-92 BY SP6 [illegible]




**STORY of the PURPLE CULT**

**Mystic "Fifth Column" in the U. S. A.**

*by* **Gerald B. Bryan**

## *A Religion— or a Racket?*

Concerning the issues of an important Federal court case, Norman Neukom, prosecuting United States Attorney, has said:

"This is NOT a religious prosecution. The Federal officials charged with the investigation and prosecution of the leaders of the I AM movement stand ready to protect all persons in their constitutional guarantee of the right of religious freedom.

"Nothwithstanding this constitutional guarantee, it is a violation of the law of this land to utilize the mail in the execution of any scheme intended to defraud, whether under the guise of religion, education, patriotism or any other movement."

62-51722-45

# In Achievement in Exposè Literature

There has never been in the United States a more extraordinary cult than the Ballard GHTY I AM"—nor has there ever been an expose more necessary and outstanding the one which is now ready for your reading.

erald Bryan has combined an in- sting literary style with accuracy tatement and a deep regard for truth. It will be hard to put this k down until its dramatic close. will lead you through a six- record of the weirdest and most acious plan of dictatorship over lives and liberties of others ch has ever been conceived. breathes of the magic and voo- sm of the jungle, yet these things happened and are happening here in our own United States. lls of modern sorcery, demons, ees of death, magic formulas for lth, youth and immortality—and tively exposes them. seems hardly possible that such gs could occur in the United es, yet this book is a true history e sensational cult, whose leaders eir political ambitions have sent th decrees" against high officials ur government.

## THIRTY-FIVE AMAZING CHAPTERS


America Turns to the "Mighty I AM"
Streamline Beginnings . . . . . .
The "Silver Shirt" Background of Ballardism . . . . . .
The Ballard Show Goes on the Road .
The Rise of a Dictator . . . . . .
Psychological Bugaboos . . . . . .
The War on "Entities" . . . . . .
Metaphysical Plums . . . . . .
The Ballard "Ascension" Miracles . .
Cosmic Streamline Advertising . . .
Voyages of a Modern Sindbad . . . .
The Comte de St. Germain—Historical and Otherwise . . .
The Bard of Avon Goes "I AM" . . .
Documentary Evidence of Plagiarism .
The "Master" Bookselling Racket . .
Where the Money Goes . . . . . .
Some Antecedent History . . . . . .
The Ballard Gold Mine Deals . . .
Triumphant Entry Into Chicago . .
The Ballard Past Bobs Up Again . .
How the Ballards Answered the Chicago Suit . . . . . .
How "Saint Germain" Kept War Out of Europe . . . . . .
Those Bad Black Magicians . . . . .
Harbingers of Disaster . . . . . .
Sex Teachings of Ballardism . . . .
Some Results of Ballardism . . . .
The Attack on Christianity . . . .
The Course of Political Dictatorships
"Peewee Hitlerism" in America . . .
The Ballard "Inner Secret Service" .
Decrees of Death! . . . . . .
The "Blue Lightning" Flashes at Cleveland . . . . . .
George Washington Ballard for President! . . . . . .
Death-Blasts Over the White House .
Death Enters the Ballard Household


**Read How the Leaders of this Cult Launched a "PSYCHIC BLITZKRIEG" against the PRESIDENT of the United States**

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day, as never be- the Torch of Truth be upheld to combat ubtle and insidious ks that are being on Freedom and ty. This book out- flingly reveals some e most subtle psycho- al dangers which be- the individual and Nation.

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Burbank, California

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 11/29/82 BY SP6 BJ/MLY

It Happens Only Once
in a Lifetime.

Dear Fellow American:

Only once in a lifetime can such a book as "PSYCHIC DICTATORSHIP IN AMERICA" appear.

Here is what Morton Thompson in his weekly book-review column in the Hollywood Citizen News says of this fascinating, new book by Dr. Gerald B. Bryan:--

> "It is, of its kind, one of the most important books the West has published in some time.**** The pages of PSYCHIC DICTATORSHIP IN AMERICA are as fascinating a revelation of a people, and of a cult movement, and of the pitiful spiritual hungers of the idle and the empty, as any comparable information you will find in Zola, or Hugo, or Dickens.
>
> "I can think of no book I could more conscientiously recommend to you this week. I sincerely hope you read it as a civic duty, as a sociological duty, as a sheer, preventative inoculation."

At no other period in the history of America could the combined influences--economic, spiritual, psychological--have given birth to the most amazing and extraordinary cult which is forced out into the light of day in this book.

When you are through reading PSYCHIC DICTATORSHIP IN AMERICA, you will know for a positive fact that the startling statements presented in the enclosed folder are absolutely true and that these things are now being brazenly foisted on the sincere but unsuspecting masses in America.

PSYCHIC DICTATORSHIP IN AMERICA is beautifully bound in dark blue cloth and is stamped in gold. It contains over 250 pages of fascinating information that is more amazing than fiction. Your copy is ready to go forward to you at once.

Yours very sincerely

The New Era Press

Publishers

Copy for Jahn case

San Diego, Calif.,

Dec. 12th. '40.

Mr. Norman Neukom,

Los Angeles, Cal.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE DEC 19 RECD BY

Dear Sir:

You seem to have hit a snag; and as I promised to help in this matter in anyway I could, I will proceed with your permission to advise you.

The trouble lies in the fact that the Judge, the defendents and yourself lack in understanding of fundamental law. You have to have a common ground on which to meet and the only one in which you can meet and understand each other is the ground of fundamental law.

The Judge in discarding his judicial robes and donning a light suit is not in my opinion doing it to favor the "I AM " organization , he wants to make the situation as comfortable as possible for them , as he feels they are far afield. However he is going to see that you proceed carefully and not tread on the religious toes of any one, hence your verbal spankings. Suppose you open your day by addressing the court in in this manner. If it please your honor, I would like to have an understanding. It is quite apparent to me and I know it must be to all concerned that we must have a foundation to start from. This case of material fraud is based on Spiritual fraud and therefore we cannot ignore the Spiritual any more than we can the material.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-46

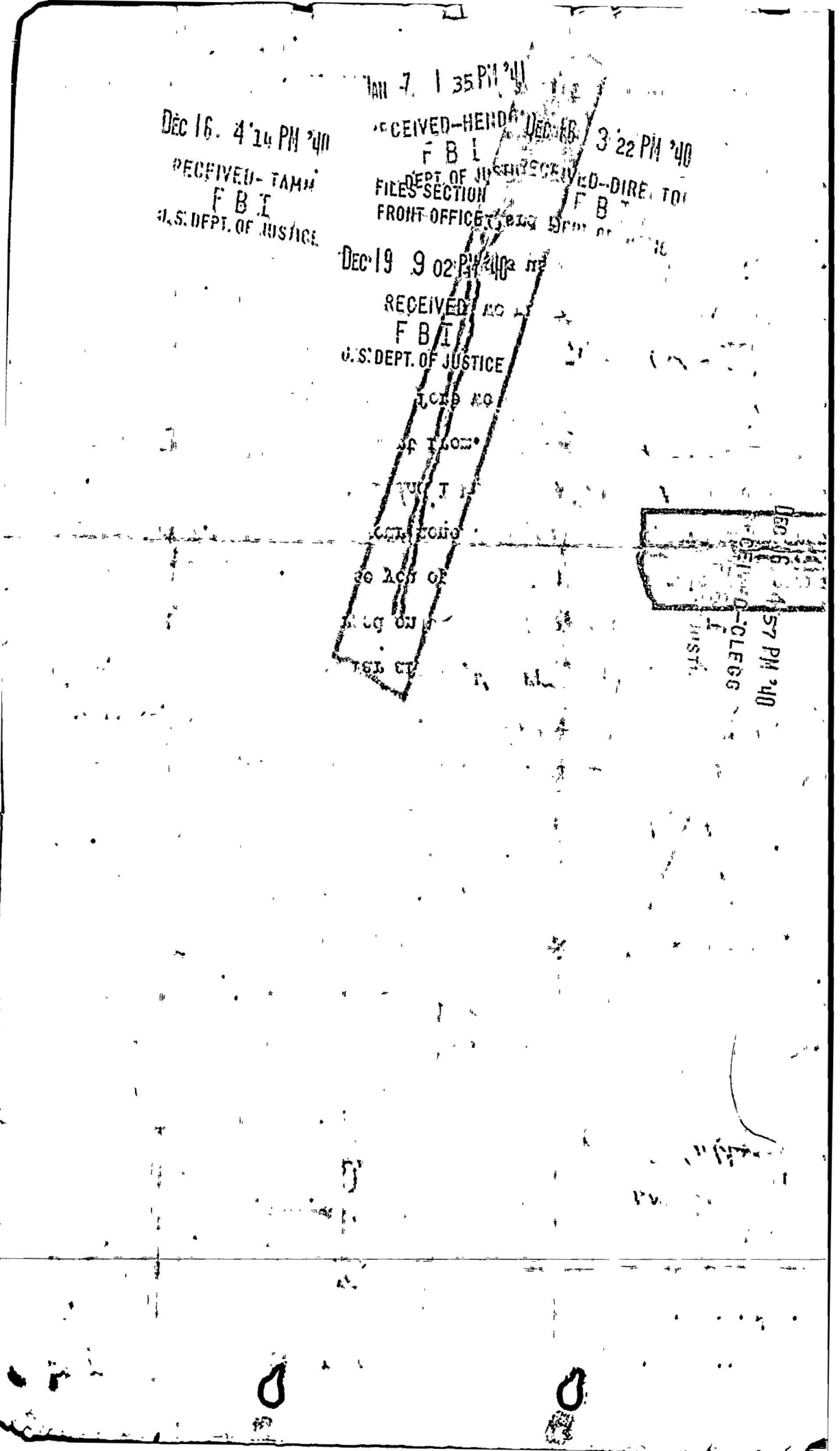
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DEC 26 1940

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Further we made a material accusation and they give a Spiritual defense, this obliges us to go into the Spiritual. Part of their defense is based on Mr. Ballard being the re-incarnation of George Washington and St. Germain, therefore we have the right to go into the re-incarnation. Taking a pseudonym as authors do, or changing your name as Mary Pickford did , is not re-incarnation as I will clearly define to the court during the trial.

6 FIVE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It seems necessary that we have a mediator between the Spiritual and material, so that both may be understood , I would like to suggest the fundamental laws of life or natural laws if you perfer that term. The first fundamental law of life is that the "Seen " comes out of the " Unseen"; - the idea of fraud in the mind of man preceeds the action of fraud in the outer world, an idea cannot be seen but it is active and brings about action in the outer world.

I agree with your honor, that you cannot photograph the unseen but you can trace the seen object back to its source in the unseen. It is a natural law that every thing that is seen came from the unseen. Iam perfectly willing to grant there are unseen influences operating in the lives of every one. Iam perfectly willing to admit that Mr. Ballard was the re-incarnation of somebody else but Iam not willing to admit it was George Washington or St. Germain . Iam going to find out if it was either gentleman or both and there is a fundamental law to prove that by also.

As a foundation that will agree with all religions let us take natural law for our governing influence, then if we check all happenings in this case to natural law we cannot go wrong. Another fundamental law that should be considered at this time , no one can deny that human being and animal is carried in darkness a period of time before birth. That all seeds of life be it human , animal, plant or vegetable must be subject to a period of darkness before birth. All our food whether fruit vegetable or animal comes through darkness , the seeds in the earth to sprout forth to light , the animal in the darkness of the womb for a given time then forth to light through birth , that the blackness of night decends every twelve hours for the rest and restoration of man.

These are fundamental laws and no one can deny them. Who has the right to say such procedure is evil , if God found it necessary to man ? On this law alone I state the " I AM " movement are wrong in their superstitions on darkness and the color black. To aid them in conforming to

this superstition is not helping them. Darkness has its constructive side and black has its constructive purpose in life. Neither one are distructive it is only when you misuse them that they become destructive.

Purple is a prominent color of the rainbow, who is to say that it has done evil to anyone ? I feel with your honor that a sense of humor is a saving grace but also that the rule of logic and reason should be exercised at all times in cases such as these , and that those instances that cannot stand the test of the fundamental laws of life should be ruled out.

Material fraud is the the outcome of Spiritual fraud. A person has first lost their Spiritual balance either by intent --- or influence ---- before they lose their material balance ------ The idea fraud in the mind preceeds the action of fraud in the outer world. These being facts I ask the court to establish fundamental law as our foundation on which to build JUSTICE for all.

I believe Mr. Neukom , this will straighten the matter out for you and get every one started on a proper foundation. I will be willing to help you in any way I can .

Sincerely,
E. LETA HOSKINS
E Leta Hoskins

4III Stephens St. Phone Jackson I653.

Dear Sir;
Although the case of the "I am" movement is now out of the hands of the F. B. I. according to my code of ethics you are entitled to the enclosed copy.
If you will check my letter I believe it is the one dated Sept 23, 1940 you will find my prophecy on the situation in Roumania at this time has proven correct.

n view of that you should realize I hav
some power of discernment. My predici
s to the Judges actions should work ou
lso. I feel the Judge will respond ac
ordicted in that letter if the evidens
is wisely presented.

If the "I am" movement wins this ca
e won't need an F. B. I. or any thing e
e will all be under Nazi rule.

Sincerely
E. Leta Hopkins.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 20 1941

WESTERN UNION

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. H[illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

J. V. NUGENT

RECEIVED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/29/82 BY [illegible]

WH33 30 GOVT VIA RCA

LOSANGELES CALIF JAN 2 0 1941 412PXX 421P

DIRECTOR FBI JUSTICE

EDNA W BALLARD WAETAL I AM MOVEMENT MF: JURY RETURNED VERDICT NOT GUILTY TODAY AS TO DEFENDANTS FRANK VAN DERHOYA, CHARLES AND PEARL SINDELAR. AS TO OTHER SIX DEFENDANTS, MISTRIAL HOOD..

WAETAL MF..

955P

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-HT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
1 JAN 22 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROSEN ONE

cc to Night Supvr.
Mr. Weber

JAN 20 9 00 PM '41
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F B I
COMMUNICATIONS

JAN 20 6 08 PM '41
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U S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
DIVISION ONE
JAN 21 10 47 AM '41
F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JAN 21 9 48 AM '41
RECEIVED-TAMM
F B I
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FILE NO. 36-138

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| LOS ANGELES, CALIF. | 1-28-41 | 12-3-40 to 1-20-41 | THOMAS M. MULHERIN (A) MAH |

TITLE
CHANGED
EDNA W. BALLARD, alias Saint Germain, Jesus, Joan of Arc, Lotus Ray King, Chanera; DONALD BALLARD, alias ~~Edona Eros Ballard, Lafayette;~~ BETTY MUNDY; WILLIAM J. CASSIERE; PAUL STICKELL; GRANT L. LEWIS; ~~SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:~~ "I AM" MOVEMENT.

CHARACTER OF CASE
MAIL FRAUD

Synopsis of Facts: After trial by jury FRANK VON DERHOYA; CHARLES SINDELAR and PEARL SINDELAR were acquitted. The indictment against GRANT L. LEWIS was dismissed at the close of the Government's case. The jury disagreed as to remaining defendants, whose names appear in title. Schedules prepared during course of trial eliminating references to unavailable inventories.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/82 BY SP2 [illegible]

References: Report of Special Agent THOMAS M. MULHERIN, Los Angeles, California, dated November 25, 1940.

Details: The title of this report has been changed to eliminate the names of FRANK VON DERHOYA, CHARLES SINDELAR and PEARL SINDELAR, who were found "not guilty", and of

| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: R B Hood SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES | |
|---|---|---|
| DISPOSITION SENT 5 | 62-5732-148 | FEB 13 1941 |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br>3 - Bureau<br>1 - U. S. Attorney, Los Angeles<br>2 - Los Angeles | FEB -1 1941 | |

GRANT L. LEWIS, against whom the indictment was dismissed.

On December 3, 1940 a jury was empaneled and the case proceeded to trial against EDNA W. BALLARD, DONALD BALLARD, BETTY MUNDY, FRANK VON DERHOYA, CHARLES SINDELAR, PEARL SINDELAR, WILLIAM J. CASSIERE, PAUL STICKELL and GRANT L. LEWIS.

At the close of the Government's case on January 3, 1941, Federal Judge LEON YANKWICH dismissed the indictment against GRANT L. LEWIS. The presenting of evidence was concluded and the Judge charged the jury on January 16, 1941. The jury remained locked up from that date until January 20, 1941 when the Judge dismissed them after they had stated they were in hopeless disagreement. At that time the jury advised that they had reached the verdict of "not guilty" for CHARLES SINDELAR, PEARL SINDELAR and FRANK VON DERHOYA, and that they were in disagreement as to EDNA W. BALLARD, DONALD BALLARD, BETTY MUNDY, PAUL STICKELL, GRANT L. LEWIS and WILLIAM J. CASSIERE. The Judge then dismissed the jury.

During the course of the trial, the writer and Special Agent JAMES A. SLOAN prepared a number of revised schedules to be introduced in evidence on a theory that the inventory of June 30, 1940 could not be substantiated as the Attorneys for the prosecution had decided not to call the accountant, B. A. JACKSON, as a Government witness. Schedules were also prepared showing the benefits to the various Subjects, as well as the sale of books upon the part of Defendants STICKELL and CASSIERE.

Following the trial of the case, United States Attorney WILLIAM FLEET PALMER stated to the writer that he was going to leave the decision as to whether or not a new trial will be had to the Attorney General.

Disposition sheets are transmitted herewith as to all the defendants, including those already dropped from the title of this report, concerning whom an arrest record was found at the office of the United States Marshal at Los Angeles.

Descriptions of all the individuals against whom the case proceeded to trial were obtained by personal observation during the course of the trial and supplemented by information furnished to the

L. A., #36-138

United States Marshal's Office of Los Angeles at the time of their arrest. In addition, descriptions of BOND BRESSLER, STANLEY CONRAD, BERT E. CORPORON, FRED E. DOBBINS, FRANCES K. EKEY and CAROLIE HENDRICKSON were obtained from the arrest records of the United States Marshal and are set forth hereunder:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | BALLARD, EDNA W. |
| Born | Iowa, June 25, 1886 |
| Height | 5 feet, 2 inches |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Hair | Blonde |
| Weight | 125 pounds |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Build | Stocky |
| Teeth | Lower gold crowns |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Female |
| Address | Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles |
| Citizenship | United States |
| Occupation | Leader of "I Am" Movement |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | BALLARD, DONALD |
| Born | Chicago, May 12, 1918 |
| Height | 5 feet, 10 inches |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Hair | Brown |
| Weight | 140 pounds |
| Eyes | Gray |
| Build | Slender |
| Peculiarities | Pronounced Adams Apple |
| Mustache | Small |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Address | Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles |
| Citizenship | United States |
| Occupation | Leader of "I Am" Movement |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | MUNDY, BETTY |
| Age | 50 years |
| Height | 5 feet, 10 inches |
| Complexion | Fair |

L. A., #36-138

| | |
|---|---|
| Hair | Brown |
| Weight | 140 pounds |
| Eyes | Brown |
| Build | Stocky |
| Teeth | Discolored |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Female |
| Occupation | Secretary |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | VON DERHOYA, FRANK |
| Age | 36 years |
| Height | 5 feet, 10 inches |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Hair | Gray |
| Weight | 170 pounds |
| Eyes | Brown |
| Build | Medium, broad-shouldered |
| Peculiarities | Sloping forehead |
| Glasses | Horn-rimmed |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Female |
| Occupation | Salesman |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | SINDELAR, CHARLES |
| Born | May 27, 1885 |
| Height | 5 feet, 10 inches |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Hair | Brown |
| Weight | 200 pounds |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Build | Heavy |
| Scars | Left wrist; back under left hand; back under right hand; back medium right hand. |
| Glasses | Yes |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Address | 2600 South Hoover Street, Los Angeles, California |
| Occupation | Artist |

L. A., #36-138

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | SINDELAR, PEARL |
| Born | Virginia City, Nevada, February 5, 1887 |
| Height | 5 feet, 3½ inches |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Hair | Light Brown |
| Weight | 154 pounds |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Build | Heavy |
| Scars | Center of abdomen; burn scar on abdomen |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Female |
| Address | 2600 South Hoover Street, Los Angeles, California |
| Citizenship | United States |
| Occupation | Housewife |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | STICKELL, PAUL |
| Born | Pennsylvania, December 20, 1889 |
| Height | 5 feet 6 3/4 inches |
| Complexion | Ruddy |
| Hair | Thick; brow silvered |
| Weight | 203 pounds |
| Build | Stocky |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Teeth | Upper and lower bridges |
| Scars | Small brown mole back of right hand<br>1" scar between right thumb and under-finger<br>1" scar right index finger, under side |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Address | 1620 E. 84th Place, Chicago, Illinois |
| Citizenship | United States |
| Occupation | Lecturer |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | CASSIERE, WILLIAM J. |
| Born | Chicago, January 29, 1897 |
| Height | 5 feet, 7 inches |
| Complexion | Dark |

| | |
|---|---|
| Hair | Black |
| Weight | 165 pounds |
| Eyes | Hazel |
| Build | Medium |
| Teeth | Two upper right gold filled<br>One upper left gold filled |
| Scars | Right knee, left ankle |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Address | 2600 South Hoover Street, Los Angeles |
| Citizenship | United States |
| Occupation | Lecturer |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | LEWIS, GRANT L. |
| Born | Wisconsin, November 10, 1883 |
| Height | 6 feet, ½ inch |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Hair | Gray |
| Weight | 187 pounds |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Build | Medium |
| Scars | Mole on back; scar on chin |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Address | Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles |
| Citizenship | United States |
| Occupation | Bodyguard |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | BRESSLER, BOND |
| Born | Pennsylvania, February 2, 1884 |
| Height | 5 feet 10 inches |
| Weight | 194 pounds |
| Build | Medium |
| Complexion | Medium |
| Hair | Brown |
| Eyes | Hazel |
| Scars | Back of thumb on right hand |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |

| | |
|---|---|
| Citizenship | United States |
| Address | 1711 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. |
| Marital status | Married |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | CONRAD, STANLEY |
| Born | Poland, May 6, 1904 |
| Height | 5 feet, 8 3/4 inches |
| Weight | 181½ pounds |
| Build | Medium |
| Complexion | Medium |
| Eyes | Hazel |
| Teeth | One gold upper inlay |
| Glasses | Yes |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Citizenship | Applied for 2nd papers in United States |
| Address | 3315 New Hampshire, Los Angeles, Calif. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | CORPORON, BERT E. |
| Born, | Kansas, December 4, 1886 |
| Height | 5 feet, 10½ inches |
| Weight | 186 pounds |
| Build | Medium slender |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Hair | Bald in front, white |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Teeth | Six lower gold |
| Scars | Base of palm, right hand<br>Small scar, back of left hand<br>Right knee |
| Glasses | Yes |
| Citizenship | United States |
| Address | 1976 Cedar Avenue, Long Beach, Calif. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | DOBBINS, FRED E. |
| Born | Fulton County, Illinois, April 27, 1872 |
| Height | 5 feet, 11 inches |
| Weight | 149 pounds |

| | |
|---|---|
| Build | Slender |
| Complexion | Medium |
| Hair | Gray, bald at temples and on top |
| Eyes | Brown |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Citizenship | United States |
| Address | 150 North Coronado, Los Angeles |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | EKEY, FRANCES K. |
| Born | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 27, 1899 |
| Height | 5 feet, 7 inches |
| Weight | 170 pounds |
| Build | Stout |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Hair | Blond |
| Eyes | Gray-blue |
| Scars | Faint scar back of left hand<br>Scar, right side of abdomen |
| Peculiarities | Full-faced |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Citizenship | United States |
| Address | 1209 North Boradway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | HENDRICKSON, CAROLIE |
| Born | Ohio, March 8, 1889 |
| Height | 5 feet, 2 3/4 inches |
| Weight | 197 pounds |
| Build | Stout |
| Complexion | Medium |
| Hair | Gray |
| Eyes | Blue-gray |
| Teeth | gold inlay, upper front |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Female |
| Citizenship | United States |
| Residence | 3315 New Hampshire, Los Angeles |

The information set forth herein as to the verdict of the jury was confirmed by an examination of the docket in the office of the United States Circuit Court.

Disposition sheets covering CHARLES SINDELAR, PEARL SINDELAR, GRANT L. LEWIS, BOND BRESSLAR, STANLEY CONRAD, BERT E. CORPORON, FRED E. DOBBINS, FRANCES K. EKEY and CAROLIE HENDRICKSON are transmitted herewith.

ENCLOSURES TO THE BUREAU

Nine disposition sheets.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. Will ascertain from the United States Attorney the decision of the Attorney General as to trying again the six defendants.

P E N D I N G

RCF:AL

CORDED

February 26, 1941

62-56722-49

Special Agent in Charge

Los Angeles, California

Re: Edna W. Ballard, with aliases Et Al
Mail Fraud.

Dear Sir:

With reference to Laboratory Report # 42533 , in connection with the above entitled case, there are transmitted herewith photographic copies of the following specimens which your office submitted for examination:

Photographs of specimens Q1 through Q16 and K1 and K2.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/82 BY SP3 BJ/RS

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ FEB 26 1941 ★
FBI
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

66

Enclosure #

L-26

Invoice of Contents from
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Date February 21, 1941 Case References Edna W. Ballard, with aliases

Consigned to: SAC, Los Angeles Et Al Mail Fraud

62-56722-49

List of Contents

Q1 through Q16 K1 and K2.

REGISTERED AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/82 BY SP8 BTD/MJ

65-56722-49

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California
February 13, 1941

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/24/82 BY SP8 [illegible]

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

ATTENTION: TECHNICAL LABORATORY

RE: EDNA W. BALLARD, W/AS ETAL
MAIL FRAUD

Dear Sir:

The Los Angeles Field Division is in receipt of a letter dated February 10, 1941, from WM. FLEET PALMER, United States Attorney, Los Angeles, with which were enclosed certain exhibits introduced by the defendants and the government into the trial of the above captioned case, which resulted in a hung jury as to certain principal defendants.

MR. PALMER has expressed his desire to have the Technical Laboratory examine the documents enclosed herewith. To accomplish this, Federal Judge LEON R. YANKWICH has entrusted these exhibits to the government until on or about March 5, 1941, when they must be returned. These exhibits are listed as follows:

1. Defendants' exhibit number 32, consisting of:

Six airmail envelopes, all of which are addressed to the Philosophers Nook, 15 E. Washington St., Chicago, Ill., Suite 718. These envelopes were postmarked at Mount Shasta, California, on the following dates:

September 1, 1930
October 24, 1930
October 24, 1930
September 5, 1930
October 30, 1930
October 28, 1930

2. Defendants' exhibit number 33, consisting of:

Several handwritten and typewritten letters, as follows:

UNRECORDED COPY TO INVEST. UNIT ORIGINAL TO LABORATORY

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-56722-49 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION 1 FEB 15 1941 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COPIES DESTROYED OCT 26 1954 96

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED

FEB 17 5 20 PM '41

TECHNICAL LABORATORY
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
DIVISION ONE

FEB 18 1 56 PM '41

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Four page handwritten letter, dated Saturday, 1:00 P.M., 5/3/30.
Four page handwritten letter, dated 8:30 A.M., 8/5/30.
Three page handwritten letter, dated Monday, 10:30, 8/11/30.
Two page typewritten letter, dated Mount Shasta City, Sept. 4, 1930.
One page typewritten letter, dated Sept. 29, 1930.
One page typewritten letter, dated Oct. 1, 1930.

3. Government exhibit number 110, consisting of:

Three page handwritten letter, dated Miami, Florida, Feb. 4, 1935, addressed to: Blessed FERGUSONS, and signed: The Messengers. The BALLARDS.

4. Government exhibit number 84, consisting of:

Three page handwritten letter, dated Pass-A-Grille, Florida, March 13, 1935, addressed to: My Dear Blessed HARRY, and signed: GEORGE.

MR. PALMER advised that defendants' exhibit number 33 is the most important, and consists of the above mentioned letters, all written in the fall of 1930.

MR. PALMER further advised that he does not believe there is much doubt but what all of the handwritten letters in defendants' exhibit number 33 are in fact the handwriting of GUY W. BALLARD. Government exhibits numbers 84 and 110 contain the known handwriting of GUY W. BALLARD, and MR. PALMER requests that the handwriting in these government exhibits be checked with the handwritten letters in defendants' exhibit number 33, to ascertain whether they were written by the same person.

RE: EDNA W. BALLARD, W/AS ETAL
MAIL FRAUD

MR. PALMER is of the impression that the Technical Laboratory might be able to express an opinion as to the age of the paper or type of the four typewritten sheets attached to defendants' exhibit number 33, and that the Technical Laboratory might have access to information which will disclose that either the paper or the type was not, in fact, written as far back as the fall of 1930, but was written at a later date. In case the Technical Laboratory would be in a position to ascertain that fact, such testimony might be material in the event of a re-trial.

The testimony during the last trial regarding the airmail envelopes, described as defendants' exhibit number 32, was to the effect that the letters contained in defendants' exhibit number 33 were mailed in these airmail envelopes. MR. PALMER requests that the Technical Laboratory examine and compare the typing of the three typewritten letters contained in defendants' exhibit number 33 with the three typewritten envelopes contained in defendants' exhibit number 32, postmarked at Mount Shasta, California, October 24, 1930, September 5, 1930, and September 1, 1930, and determine if they were produced by the same machine.

In case it is necessary to un-staple any of these exhibits, it is requested that each exhibit be stapled together again in the same order as received, and if possible, stapled through the same holes.

It is requested that the Technical Laboratory give the above matter their immediate attention, as it is very paramount and necessary that the four exhibits enclosed herewith be returned to the Los Angeles Field Office so that they can be delivered to the court in Los Angeles on or before March 5, 1941. It is further requested that the said exhibits be returned to the Los Angeles Field Office via airmail, special delivery, registered mail.

Very truly yours,

R. B. Hood

R. B. HOOD,
Special Agent in Charge.

JCS:GLB
36-138

AIRMAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY
REGISTERED MAIL.

Los Angeles, California,
April 2nd, 1941,

Mr. Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington, D.C. U. S. A.,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/24/82 BY SP3 Stone

Dear Mr. President:

We recently had a trial here, as you no doubt know, concerning the O"I AM" Organization, and the jury disagreed. I understand that the records are being gone over to ascertain whether the Ballards and Company are to again stand trial on April 24th, or 25th.

Mr. President, I most sincerely hope that they must stand trial again for 'Fraud'. You have been trying your darndest to rid this country of Fifth Columnist and Communists, and all other kinds of 'Ists' and 'Isms', and the I Am's are the largest Fifth Columnists and Communists in this country.

It was brought out in the trial that Mrs. Ballard objected to any of her young men leaders to register for the draft, when the young men of our country were called upon for the draft. Not only that, but it was also brought out that they tried to force people to join their organization by placing fear into their minds. They also advocated a rumor that if you were again elected as President, that the United States would be destroyed. That is not all, they also claim that Mexico is in with the Axis Power, and that all Mexicans have orders to shoot United States Citizens first.

Do you honestly and truly believe it safe to have an organization like that to masquerade as a religious organization when in reality they are nothing but TRAITORS to our country?

It wouldn't surprise me in the least if Mrs. Ballard is also on Fritz Wiedeman's payroll, just Like Lindbergh and Ford. I wasn't surprised at all when I read in the paper that they were on Wiedeman's payroll. Anyone could guess that after the fine speaches they made about our country giving the Axis all the aid they need. What we ought to do is tie a rock around their necks and sink them in mid-ocean.

I hope Mr. President that you will see to it that the Ballards and Company again come up for trial, and I hope that the second time the jury will not disagree. Not only that, I see no reason why Mrs. Ballard shouldn't pay taxes for all her Love Gifts. Others, who do not have what she has, must pay their taxes.

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-56722-50
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 APR 11 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

An organization like that is nothing but a menace to this country, and our country should be cleaned out of all this dam graft business.

With best wishes for your health, I AM,

Sincerely,

AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

L-16

February 21, 1941

RCF:AL

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

RECORDED 62-56722-49
65-56722-49

Special Agent in Charge
Los Angeles, California

Re: Edna W. Ballard, with aliases Et Al
Mail Fraud

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/83 BY SP6BEJ/jw

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above-entitled matter, and transmitted by your communication dated

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

1 encl

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ FEB 21 1941 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RCF:AL

Laboratory Report

February 21, 1941

File # 65-56722-49

Lab # 42533

Re: Edna W. Ballard, with aliases Et Al
Mail Fraud

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/26/82 BY SP2 BEM/mj

Examination requested by: Los Angeles

Reference: Letter 2-13-41

Examination requested: Document Feehan

Specimens:

Defendants' exhibit number 32, consisting of six air mail envelopes addressed to "Philosophers Nook" all postmarked at Mount Shasta, California on the following dates:

Q1 September 1, 1930
Q2 October 24, 1930, addressed in handwriting
Q3 October 24, 1930, addressed in typewriting
Q4 September 5, 1930
Q5 October 30, 1930
Q6 October 28, 1930

Defendants' exhibit number 33, consisting of:

Q7 Letter dated "Sat. 1 P.M. 5/3/30", beginning "Yours of the 30...."
Q8 Second sheet of letter beginning "are being taken..."
Q9 Letter dated "8:30 A.M. 8/5/30", beginning "My Sweet White Dove...."
Q10 Second sheet of letter beginning "I have to do is to go..."
Q11 Letter dated "Mon. 10:30, 8/11/30" beginning "My Sweet White Dove: - Your...."
Q12 Second sheet of letter, second line beginning "in Oregon & Washington..."
Q13 Typewritten letter, first page of message beginning "How wonderfully blessed..."
Q14 Second sheet of letter beginning "Yes, I will be careful of the...."

62-56722-49

Specimens Continued:

Q15 Typewritten letter, message beginning "Yours of the 27...."
Q16 Typewritten letter, message beginning "I have been held so steady at the..." Government exhibit number 110, consisting of:
K1 Letter dated February 4, 1935, first page bearing message beginning "Your lovely letter received..."; second sheet beginning "Messengers unknowingly begin to look..." This letter was written by Guy W. Ballard.

Government exhibit number 84, consisting of:
K2 Letter dated March 13, 1935, first page bearing message beginning "Your lovely letter of the 10th..."; second sheet beginning "Yes, I did ask you..."; third sheet beginning "to the Printers Friday the..."

Result of examination:

It was concluded that specimens Q1, Q4, Q13 and Q14 were typewritten with the same machine and this machine is equipped with Underwood Pica Type, spaced ten letters to the inch.

It was concluded that specimens Q3, Q15 and Q16 were typed with a machine equipped with Royal Pica Type, spaced ten letters to the inch. The same typewriter was used to type Q15 as was used to type Q16, but no conclusion was reached as to whether the same typewriter was used to typewrite Q3, due to the limited amount of typing appearing on Q3 and also due to the lack of any definite defects appearing in the type characters on the envelope.

The Underwood typewriting impressions on Q1, Q4, Q13 and Q14 were made by a type which was started by the Underwood people October 8, 1924 and made until February 16, 1927. The Royal type impressions on Q3, Q15 and Q16 have been used by the Royal Company since March 20, 1921.

It was not able to be determined the year the specimens were typed nor the age of the questioned paper. However, it is suggested that possibly the hotel stationery be referred to the proper hotel which uses this stationery to ascertain whether there had been any changes in their stationery headings during the years in question.

With reference to the Underwood and Royal typewriting specimens, it might be desirable if possible to secure typewriting that had been typed on these machines from the year 1930 on. If this could be done it might be possible from such specimens to determine when certain defects took place in the machines, thus possibly establishing the approximate time when the typing on the

questioned evidence was made.

It was concluded that Q2, and Q5 through Q12 were written by Guy W. Ballard whose known handwriting specimens are designated in the Laboratory's files as K1 and K2. As no mention was made of the pencil notations appearing on the inside of the air mail envelopes no examination was made with respect to these handwritings.

The Los Angeles Field Division is advised that the staples were removed from Q1 through Q16 and although there were other staple marks on the evidence, the staples were put back in the same holes from which they had been removed.

The submitted evidence is being returned under separate cover by air mail special delivery registered mail. Photographic copies of the questioned and known handwriting specimens submitted will be forwarded within the next several days, similar copies of which are being retained in the Laboratory's files.

In the event the additional typewriting specimens are secured the original evidence should be resubmitted at the same time the new specimens are forwarded to the Bureau for further examination.

1-Bureau
2-Los Angeles
1-Laboratory

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES FILE NO. 36-138

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| LOS ANGELES | 4-22-41 | 2-13,25-41<br>3-12-41 | THOMAS M. MULHERIN SR |

TITLE CHANGED:
EDNA M. BALLARD, alias Saint Germain, Jesus, Joan of Arc, Lotus Lay King, Chanera;
~~DONALD BALLARD, alias Edona Eros Ballard, Layfayette;~~
BETTY LUNDY;
~~SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:~~
PAUL MITCHELL;
LOUISE ANDREWS;
WILLIAM J. DASSIENE.
"I AM MOVEMENT"

4-7,9,12, & 16-41

CHARACTER OF CASE
MAIL FRAUD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/29/82 BY SP3 [illegible]

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

On March 12, upon instructions of Court, books and records of "I Am Movement" returned to defendants. On April 12, new indictment returned against six remaining defendants. No trial date set. Examination of letters allegedly written by GUY W. BALLARD in 1930 does not establish that they could not have been so written.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent THOMAS M. MULHERIN Los Angeles, dated January 28, 1941.

DETAILS: The title is Changed to drop the name of CLAIT L. LEWIS. On March 12, 1941, NORMAN NEUKOM, Assistant United States Attorney, advised that the defendants had received permission of the Court to obtain the return of their records to assist them in the preparation of

RECORDED

| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |
|---|---|---|
| | | 62-7,56-722 5 MAY 8 1941 |

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3-Bureau
1-USA, Los Angeles
2-Los Angeles

APR 26 1941

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—2034

their 1940 tax returns. At the request of Mr. NEUKOM the writer and Post Office Inspector, VAN METER, checked the records which the writer and Post Office Inspectors had obtained during the course of the investigation and turned them over to JOHN KOSTER, Los Angeles representative of the "I Am Movement", and obtained KOSTER'S receipt therefor.

A review of file Number 14,853 in the office of the United States Clerk of Court, Los Angeles, shows that on April 9, 1941, the Federal Grand Jury at Los Angeles returned a new indictment charging the six persons named in the title of this report with use of the mails to defraud. The scheme alleged is similar to the one alleged in the previous indictment. The new indictment contains eleven substantive counts and one count of conspiracy.

Assistant United States Attorney NORMAN NEUKOM advised the writer that no definite date has been set for the new trial, and that the office of the United States Attorney contemplates no definite action towards setting a trial date until after a conference is had with representatives of the Attorney General's office.

Under date of February 10, 1941, the United States Attorney at Los Angeles requested the Los Angeles Field Division to forward to the Technical Laboratory a number of letters introduced into evidence by the defense at the time of trail as having been mailed to EDNA BALLARD at Chicago by GUY W. BALLARD who at the time of writing them was assertedly at Mt. Shasta, where ST. GERMAIN allegedly appeared to him. It was the Government's contention that GUY W. BALLARD was not at Mt. Shasta at the time the letters were allegedly written and that he could not, terefore, have had the conversations with SAINT GERMAIN which he claimed to have had. The United States Attorney asked that the documents be examined, first to determine if they were in the handwriting of GUY W. BALLARD when compared with known specimens of BALLARD'S handwriting also forwarded, and second to determine if an examination of the stationery, the ink and the markings thereon would enable the Technical Laboratory to fix the time of writing--which might possible be at a time later than 1930.

The letters and samples of handwriting mentioned in the preceding paragraph were on February 13, 1941, forwarded to the Bureau with request that the examination desired by the United States Attorney be made. Under date of February 21, 1941, the specimens were returned to the Los Angeles Bureau office by the Technical Laboratory with the information that an examination indicated that the handwritten portions of the letters appeared to be in the handwriting of GUY W. BALLARD, but that a typewriting examination and an examination of the stationery did not establish that the letters must have been written at a later date than 1930. No conclusion was

reached as to the approximate age of the letters. The Bureau asked that samples of the typewriting written from 1930 to date on the typewriters used to type the letters be obtained and that such specimens be forwarded to the Bureau for further comparison.

The results of the Bureau examination were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney NORMAN NEUKOM by Special Agent JAMES C. SLOANE. Mr. NEUKOM said that it was impracticable to obtain the further specimens of typewriting desired by the Bureau, and that no further examination was therefore desired. The letters were returned to Mr. NEUKOM by Agent SLOANE, who returned them to the United States Clerk of Court, who was holding them as exhibits.

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION: Will follow prosecutive action.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

# Federal Bureau of Investigation
## United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

June 9, 1941

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Drayton
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Tour Room
Mr. Nease
Mr. Tracy
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/62 BY

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. FOXWORTH

At 10:00 P.M. SAC Peterson, Boston, telephoned and advised that the United States Attorney in Boston had requested information concerning one SALLY MANNAKEE and the "I AM Movement".

Mr. Peterson explained thatSally Mannakee, 301 Bennington St., East Boston, Mass., a rabid follower of the "I AM Movement" has been questioned by Secret Service agents for writing letters threatening the President's life. He said this woman is not in custody and that the U.S. Attorney wants to know whether the Bureau files indicate that the "I AM " organization, with which Mannakee is actively associated, is considered subversive or inimical to the welfare of this country's interests.

Peterson said that Sally Mannakee originally came from Kentucky where she went to Berea College, of which Mrs. Roosevelt is a memberc of the Board of Trustees but that Mannakee's parents kicked her out when she joined the "I AM " organization. She now works as a domestic in a Boston household for $4 per week and board but allegedly dresses well and makes frequent trips to New York, Philadelphia, Washington, etc. and travels first class. Her threatening letter to the President was written about June 5, 1941.

Mr. Peterson requested that any information in the Bureau files indicating the nature of this organization be furnished him in the morning by teletype.

Files section advised there is no record on Sally Mannakee. The file on the "I AM MOVEMENT" is attached hereto.

RECORDED INDEXED

62-56722-53

Respectfully,

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
3 JUN 17 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

J.C.Holmes
Night supervisor

6-10-41
Wired to Boston

CH-13

FOXWORTH ROSEN

109

RECEIVED
DIVISION ONE
JUN 11 2.24 PM '41
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
DIVISION ONE
JUL 8 7.40 AM '41
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED-TAMM
JUN 11 3 24 PM '41
F B I
U.S.DEPT. OF JUSTICE

F B I
U.S DEPT. OF JUSTICE

CC-1

JET/tw

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION. JUNE 10, 1941

Transmit the following message to: SAC BOSTON

62-56722

I AM [illegible]. ONLY INVESTIGATION MADE BY BUREAU THIS MATTER RELATES TO ACCOUNTING ANGLE OF MAIL FRAUD VIOLATION. POST OFFICE INSPECTORS ACTIVE IN INVESTIGATION. SIX PERSONS CONNECTED THIS CASE PRESENTLY UNDER INDICTMENT LOS ANGELES, CHARGE MAIL FRAUD. NO RECORD BUREAU FILES SALLY [illegible]. USA BOSTON SHOULD BE REFERRED USA LOS ANGELES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

HOOVER

cc - LOS ANGELES (By regular mail)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/29/82 BY SP-

RECORDED 62-56722-53

JUN 11 1941

SENT VIA M Per

J.H
702 Fawcett
Tacoma, Wn

TACOMA
JUL 16
4:30 PM
1941
WASH.

Mr J. Edgar Hoover
Chief F.B.I.
Washington, D.C.
Personal

68315

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/5/92 BY SP8 [illegible]

Tacoma - June 15'41

68313

Dear Mr Hoover: - It is shocking & terrible that the resources of our country thru the F.B.I. - should be used for the persecution of religious groups - no matter how mistaken they may seem to be. You may not realize this is what is being done in the case against the "I Am" in Los Angeles but that is what it amounts to. Even in a war torn world with need of every person for more good & more of the Christ Light - anything that aims to uplift or help humanity has tough going. You should know that from your work. There are always plenty of people ready to [illegible] and are afraid to [illegible]. - Your [illegible] any criminals to run down among the followers of this faith whose teaching is of Jesus & the Ascended Masters & which has brought joy & help to thousands in America. And what a sight it is - with cases against murderers & thieves & enemies of our country & society waiting to be handled - with traitors mounting to take care of the needs of defense - that any group that brings even a grain of betterment to our people should be subjected to such persecution. To see

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE [illegible] BY [illegible]

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56722-5[illegible]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 21 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Ack 7/19/41 REK

RECEIVED
JUN 7 PM '41

JUL 10 5 12 P
DEPT OF JUSTI

JUL 10 8 39 PM '41
REC'D NAT'L DEF DIVISION
F.B.I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

lawyers stand up as enfolders of our Good
and gibble & make light of the beliefs of
thousands of educated & sincere people - in
an effort to prove such an accusation - is
a sorry spectacle. The teaching of the "I Am"
activity is about like Christian Science - we
think a little more advanced. Remember how
Mrs Eddy was hauled thru the courts and
blackmailed & now she is regarded as the
first of the ten of Americas greatest women.
No one in any I Am Group is ever asked for
money - no contribution boxes are ever passed
No committees are sent out to call on the
"business men" for donations. We give because
we want to & know it is the way to express
our gratitude for blessings received. The more
Mrs Ballards receive add speed considerably
the happier we are. When people have
are right they want to give. You may
never see this letter. I admire what you
have done for all of us in the USA. & thank
you for it - and that is why I write this
letter. most cordially & sincerely

Mrs Florence Hutton
702 Fawcett - Tacoma

69314

# PATRIOTIC DISPLAY COMPANY

1016-18 UNION COMMERCE BUILDING ARCADE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

6/21/41.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/82 BY SP8CTP/RS

Mr. J.Edgar Hoover, Director
Fereral Bureau Of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

As I am not exactly sure to whom this letter should be sent but knowing that your great organization is doing such a wonderful work by keeping on the heels of these Communists and Fifth Columnists and all other unamericans and as the following information has a lot to do with communists in my opinion,if it does not come within your activities will you please pass it on to where it belongs.

In a local news-paper just recently I saw an article,wherein the Post Office department was considering denying the use of the mails to the Ballard Organization known as the I AM movement, which I believe would greatly please the communists and all unamericans and it is my opinion that the communists are largely responsible for the most unfortunate conditions which have recently befallen the Ballards and their organization.

I do not belong to their sect, am just a humble true American Citizen,born and raised in Ohio, but being interested in the spiritual side of life try to investigate all spiritual teachings,expecting to gather some good from each, so I attended many of the earlier Ballard lectures and know from my own personal experiences that there never was or could be any organization who outwardly manifested love,who prayed outwardly for and really fought for America more than these same Ballards, They openly fought communism and all unamerican deeds and thoughts and even went into the strongholds of communism to fight them,records will show that they went to Seattle Wash,several times with really one purpose in view to laud God and fight atheism which is communism and did a good job of it.

RECORDED
INDEXED
62-56722 55
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 25 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

In my opinion they are terribly abused and persecuted having read their books I find that they are in line with the prophets of olden times many of which are recorded in the bible, in the many lectures I attended, never once did I hear them ask for money, it is true of course there were love offering boxes where one could deposit anything he desired but no collections like is done in churches was ever taken to my knowlegge,when people are helped spiritually

DIVISION
FORWARDED
JUL 12 11 41 AM '41
OF JUSTICE

PATRIOTIC DISPLAY COMPANY

1016-18 UNION COMMERCE BUILDING ARCADE

CLEVELAND, OHIO.



surely there is nothing wrong in assisting in a financial way to help the cause along and I know that many people donated what they could as I did so that the attack upon communism might not only be continued but amplified.

If your great organization would investigate the disgraceful persecution of these people by communists around the country,here in Cleveland, Philadelphia, Washington and of course necessitating police protection In Los Angeles, you would I am sure agree that it is a disgrace to the religious aspects of this country.

If by any chance the mails would be denied to these people and their Christian work and the great flood of communistic and anti American literature in every mail allowed to continue, we true Americans seem to be wasting our time fighting for God and Democracy, to prevail in this great nation.

As I have such great respect for you and tha great work you are doing,sincerely hope that you will interest yourself as best you can in the cause herein referred to.

Very truly yours

R. Erkman

JUL 12 12 25 PM '41
REC'D NAT'L DEF DIVISION
F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

REL:MM
62-56722-54

July 19, 1941

Mrs. Florence Hutton
702 Fawcett
Tacoma, Washington

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4/24/92 BY SP2 STP/MP

Dear Mrs. Hutton:

I desire to acknowledge your letter of June 15, 1941, and to express my appreciation for your courtesy in writing as you did.

Please be advised that this Bureau is not interested in any religious organizations or their activities and that its jurisdiction is limited to violations of specified Federal statutes.

I want you to know that your kind words concerning our work are indeed heartening in these critical times.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Drayton
Mr. Colm Tamm
Mr. Nordon
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MAILED
JUL 19 1941

62-56722-54
115

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice
Post Office Box #2344
Boston, Massachusetts

July 8, 1941

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/29/82 BY SP6 BTP/mj

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: SALLY MANNAKEE
"I AM" Movement
Internal Security

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau teletype of June 10, 1941 entitled "I AM" Movement, which was based on my telephone conversation with Mr. Holmes of the Bureau on June 9, 1941.

I received a telephone call on July 7, 1941 from Mrs. Robert Rutherford, Trinity Church Settlement House, 406 Meridian Street, East Boston, Massachusetts, who advised that SALLY MANNAKEE has been employed by her as a domestic for a considerable period of time. She stated it has reached the point where she does not feel she can retain SALLY MANNAKEE any longer. She stated SALLY MANNAKEE is so imbued with the "I AM" Movement that she is practically mentally unbalanced. She stated SALLY MANNAKEE will not eat meat and, in fact, will barely eat in sufficient quantities to keep herself alive. She also will not use certain vegetables which allegedly contain various types of vitamins, including vitamin B-1. Not only does she refuse to eat herself, but she has absolutely declined to feed the child of Mrs. Rutherford anything containing meat or vitamin B-1, although physicians have prescribed same for Mrs. Rutherford's infant.

Mrs. Rutherford stated she believes the "I AM" Movement is something which should be checked by the Government inasmuch as those who become imbued with its so-called religion are more or less fanatics.

I informed Mrs. Rutherford no action could be taken by this Bureau in connection with her complaint, and referred her to the Secret Service, which Department handled the case that involved the writing of a threatening letter to President Roosevelt by SALLY MANNAKEE. At that time SALLY MANNAKEE was thoroughly interviewed by Agents of the Secret Service.

The above is being furnished to the Bureau as a matter of information, and no action is being taken by this office relative thereto.

Very truly yours,

V. W. PETERSON
Special Agent in Charge

VWP:MP

CH-22

62-56722-56

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 15 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EX-9

#

JUL 25 8 19 PM '41
REC'D NAT'L DEF. DIVISION
F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

U.S. DIVIS.
RECEIVED
JUL 16 11 AM '41

REL:hr
62-56722-55

July 18, 1941

Mr. R. Erkman
Patriotic Display Company
1016-18 Union Commerce Building Arcade
Cleveland, Ohio

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/26/82 BY

Dear Mr. Erkman:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 21, 1941, and to express my sincere appreciation for your courtesy and interest in writing as you did.

Please be advised that a careful perusal of your letter fails to indicate the violation of any statute within the jurisdiction of this Bureau. You will, of course, realize that the use of the mails is a matter which does not come within the jurisdiction of this Bureau.

Your kind words of esteem concerning the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are indeed heartening in these critical times.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Drayton
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Headen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

RECEIVED
JUL 18 1941

EH-2

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES. FILE NO. 36-138

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| LOS ANGELES | 8/11/41 | 8/11/41 | THOMAS M. MULHERIN (A) DS |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| EDNA W. BALLARD, with alias, ET AL. "I AM" MOVEMENT | MAIL FRAUD |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Case continued until September 8, 1941 for arraignment and plea on new indictment and for setting as to other indictments.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent THOMAS M. MULHERIN, Los Angeles, 4-22-41.

DETAILS:

An examination of the files and dockets relating to indictments 14471-Y, 14496-Y and 14858 in this case shows that on July 24, 1941, indictments 14471 and 14496 were continued until September 8, 1941 for setting for trial and that on the same date, June 24, 1941, arraignment on plea on indictment 14858 was continued until September 8, 1941.

CH-13

PENDING

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/29/82 BY [illegible]

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

62 [illegible] 57 RECORDED

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3 BUREAU
2 LOS ANGELES

AUG 14 1941

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OCT 26 1964 96

SIX

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, will follow prosecutive action.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES FILE NO. 36-138

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| LOS ANGELES | 8/11/41 | 8/11/41 | THOMAS M. MULHERIN (A) DS |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| EDNA W. BALLARD, with alias, ET AL.<br>"I AM" MOVEMENT | MAIL FRAUD |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Case continued until September 8, 1941 for arraignment and plea on new indictment and for setting as to other indictments.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent THOMAS M. MULHERIN, Los Angeles, 4-22-41.

DETAILS:

An examination of the files and dockets relating to indictments 14471-Y, 14496-Y and 14858 in this case shows that on July 24, 1941, indictments 14471 and 14496 were continued until September 8, 1941 for setting for trial and that on the same date, June 24, 1941, arraignment on plea on indictment 14858 was continued until September 8, 1941.

PENDING

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/29/82 BY SP6 BLS/mjd

| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

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3 BUREAU
2 LOS ANGELES

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—2034

62-6722-58

REL:nek September 26, 1941

Mrs. A. W. Moenkhaus
1116 Terrace Drive
Richmond Heights
St. Louis, Missouri

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/82 BY [illegible]

Dear Mrs. Moenkhaus:

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your communication dated September 12, 1941

I regret that I must advise that the information you have requested is not available, and I am therefore unable to be of assistance to you in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Drayton
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
SEP 27 1941

1116 Logan Dr.
Richmond Hgts, Mo

SAINT LOUIS, MO.
SEP 13
10-PM
1941

BUY
DEFENSE SAVINGS
BONDS AND STAMPS

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington,
D. C.

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/26/91 BY SP2 [illegible]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/29/82 BY SP8037 Mg

62-56722-58

9/12/41

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Will you please tell me whether a group of Communists have at some time put a harmful ingredient into the [illegible] so much [illegible]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/29/78 BY SP3 [illegible]

This sounds foolish, doesn't it, it sounds that way to me too, but a Cult called the "I Am" are warning all their members not to use foods containing [illegible] especially B1. I am ashamed

1 ENCL

RECORDED INDEXED
62-56722-58
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 16 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILES DIVISION
RECEIVED
SEP 19 8 01 PM '91
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FILES DIVISION
FORWARDED
SEP 19 12 59 P
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JU

to say my Mother belongs to this organization, which now claims it is a patriotic group saving the lives of young Americans and I should like very much a letter from you which states this is not true.

Thanking you for your trouble,

I remain,

Mrs. A. W. Moenkhaus
A. W. MOENKHAUS

1116 Terrace Dr.
Richmond Heights,
St. Louis, Mo.

SEP 19 3 18 PM '91

REC'D NAT'L DEF. DIVISION
F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 04-16-2018 BY: [redacted]

b6
b7C

HBL:IS
62-56722-59

(U)

cc-Mr. Ladd

November 10,1941

Mr. Donald MacKay
Chief Constable
Vancouver
British Columbia, Canada

(U)

Dear Mr. MacKay:

(U)

Reference is made to your letter of October 24, 1941, your file 41.664.60, requesting that you be furnished any available information relative to "The Great I Am Temple" and one J. J. Westaway, who is the promoter of this organization.

(U)

Please be informed that a search of the files of this Bureau fails to reveal any information relative to J. J. Westaway.

(U)

It is believed that "The Great I Am Temple" is possibly identical with what was known in this country as the "I Am" Movement. No investigation of the "I Am" Movement was ever conducted by this Bureau, but it was investigated by the Post Office Department in connection with a possible violation of the Mail Fraud Statutes. Only the accounting work in this investigation was performed by Agents of this Bureau.

(U)

There is attached a summary of the information appearing in this Bureau's files relative to the "I Am" Movement.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Tracy
Gesen
Harbo
Coffey
Gurnea
Ingleman
Clyde Tamm
Quinn
Mohr

MAILED
NOV 10 1941
FBI

CH-22

HBL:IS

November 10, 1941

MEMORANDUM

RE: "I AM" MOVEMENT

The "I Am" Movement was conducted as a partnership by Guy W. Ballard and Edna W. Ballard, under the name of the St. Germain Press, from its organization some time in 1934 or 1935 until March 2, 1938, when the St. Germain Foundation was formed by Guy W. Ballard, Edna W. Ballard and Harry H. Rogers, who became charter members. The St. Germain Foundation was to be a nonprofit corporation. Briefly the purposes of this corporation were to teach by word of mouth directly, through the radio and phonograph records, by the printed word and by other available means the doctrines of the "I Am" Movement. On March 24, 1938, the articles of incorporation for the St. Germain Foundation were filed with the Secretary of the State of Illinois. The first officers were Guy W. Ballard, President; Harry H. Rogers, Vice President and Mrs. Edna W. Ballard, Secretary-Treasurer. These individuals were also the first Directors of this organization. On July 18, 1939, Harry H. Rogers resigned as Vice President and member of the Board of Directors of this organization and on October 4, 1939, his resignation was accepted and Paul A. Potter was elected to succeed Rogers. On January 19, 1940, Donald Ballard was elected to succeed his father, Guy W. Ballard, who died on December 29, 1939.

On December 11, 1939, a subscription agreement was entered into, proposing to organize the St. Germain Press, Inc., under the laws of the State of Illinois, for the purpose of printing, publishing, buying and selling books, pamphlets, letters, cards, literature, periodicals, publications, printed matter and music and art work. The subscribers were Louise Majerus; Cecile J. Majerus and Paul A. Potter. On December 12, 1939, a certificate of incorporation was issued by the Secretary of the State of Illinois, authorizing the St. Germain Press, Inc., to commence business. The Incorporators were the first Directors and assigned their stock in this corporation to Edna W. Ballard and Guy W. Ballard. On January 19, 1940, the officers of this corporation were elected and Donald Ballard was elected President; Paul A. Potter, Vice President and Edna W. Ballard, Secretary-Treasurer.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 11/29/82 BY SBB/DMH

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Since January, 1940, this Bureau has received various complaints that the "I Am" Movement was engaged in activities inimical to the best interests of this country. Also numerous letters were received supporting this organization and claiming that it was an organization thoroughly loyal to this country. There have been complaints that this organization was Communist and on the other hand allegations that the Communists were trying to down the organization. Members of this Movement have been accused of being pro-Nazi and it has been stated that the Ballards were continuously seeing Nazi, Russian and Fascist spies and looking for them, and on many occasions when a foreign tongue was heard the Ballards would immediately cause the staff to return to their rooms. It has also been alleged that this organization objected to conscription and that it has created the impression that it was working closely with this Bureau in connection with un-American activities.

No investigations of these organizations were ever conducted by this Bureau. However, this organization was investigated by the Post Office Department in connection with a possible violation of the Mail Fraud Statutes. The accounting work in the investigation was performed by Agents of this Bureau. As a result of the investigation by the Post Office Department an indictment was returned by the Federal Grand Jury at Los Angeles, California, on August 23, 1940, against 24 individuals. This indictment alleged that a large number of people were defrauded through false representations, pretenses and promises. It is stated that the victims purchased books, magazines, pictures, articles and other paraphernalia offered for sale by the subjects of this indictment and were induced to become followers and accept the teachings and movement sponsored by the defendants, commonly known as the "I Am" Movement, and were induced to give, send, and pay money and give other things of value to the defendants because of these false representations.

This indictment alleged that Guy W. Ballard, who died at Los Angeles, California, on December 29, 1939, was represented by the individuals indicted to have been selected by the alleged "ascended master," St. Germain, as a divine messenger, and it was alleged that the words of the alleged divine entity, St. Germain, would be transmitted to mankind through the medium of the said Guy W. Ballard. The indictment alleges that Edna W. Ballard (wife of Guy W. Ballard) and Donald Ballard (son of Guy W. Ballard) were stated to have been selected as divine messengers through whom the words of the alleged "ascended masters," including the alleged St. Germain,

would be communicated to mankind under the teachings commonly known as the "I Am" Movement. It is stated that these individuals represented that the various books which were written by Guy W. Ballard were dictated by St. Germain and sold under such representations. It is stated that Guy W. Ballard, during his lifetime, and Edna W. Ballard and Donald Ballard had claimed to have attained a supernatural state of self-immortality, which condition enabled them, and each of them, to be entirely free from ailments common to man, and to conquer disease, death, old age, poverty, and misery, which power or condition and supernatural state the defendants and each of them, represented they could and would transmit to others willing to pay therefor or willing to part with other things of value therefor to the defendants. It is alleged that all these representations were made for the false and fraudulent purpose of securing money or other things of value from the persons intended to be defrauded, and that the individuals indicted knew the representations to be false.

Although 24 individuals were indicted on November 4, 1940, the indictment against 14 of them was nolle prossed. On January 3, 1941, the indictment against one of the individuals was dismissed. Three of these individuals were acquitted and the Jury having disagreed as to the others, was dismissed on January 20, 1941. On April 12, 1941, new indictments were returned as to the remaining six defendants, and these individuals were to be brought before the court for arraignment and pleas on these indictments on September 8, 1941. It has been reported that since the death of Guy W. Ballard, this organization has gone forward under the auspices of his wife, known to the followers as Lotus Ray King, alias Chanera, and Guy W. Ballard's son. It is said that Mrs. Ballard was formerly affiliated with William D. Pelley before her marriage. Pelley was the leader of the Silver Shirt Movement.

FBI - NEW YORK
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DEPT OF JUSTICE

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FILE NO. 36-138

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles, California | 11-23-41 | 11-10-41 | THOMAS H. MULHERIN (A) Mch |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| EDNA W. DALLARD, with alias, ET AL.<br>"I AM" MOVEMENT | MAIL FRAUD |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Trial set for December 2, 1941.

P.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 11/29/82 BY SP3BLD/mg

Reference: Report of Special Agent Thomas H. Mulerhin (A), Los Angeles, California, 8-11-41;

Details:

A review of the docket in this case shows that on October 13, 1941, trial was set for December 2, 1941.

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

At Los Angeles, California: will follow prosecutive action.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: R. B. Hood SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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62-36732-60

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NOV 27 1941

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U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

DATE BY
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
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| EDNA W. BALLARD, with alias, ET AL. "I AM" MOVEMENT | MAIL FRAUD |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Trial set for December 2, 1941.

P.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/29/82 BY SP3 JMS

Reference: Report of Special Agent Thomas M. Mulerhin (A), Los Angeles, California, 8-11-41;

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

At Los Angeles, California: will follow prosecutive action.

| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |
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LOS ANGELES
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1941
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BO:

Mr. J. E. Hoover
Fed. Bu. Investigation
Washington D.C.

VIA AIR MAIL

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DATE 11-26-82 BY SP2 BAW

W. T. Johnson
854 W. Adams,
Los Angeles Calif.

Los Angeles Calif.
Dec 12, 41.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 11/29/82 [illegible]

68307

Dear Sir. HAROLD LEE JOHNSON

My name is Harold Lee Johnson age 35.
address 854 W. Adams. Los Angeles Calif.
son of Mrs Emma G. L. Johnson former Treasurey Invistigator present accupation of both myself & mother Roominghouse & Boarding.

Catering to the I. Am. students during Shrine Classes, I also do acasional radio Servicing & elect. Repairing.

Ack 1/21/42

Regarding the I. Am. activity, I am not a student but oweing to my above accupation, have had apportunity to hear quite a bit about their activity at first this seemd just another racket which L.A. is blessed with so much of. but owing to the latest crisses it seems to me there is more to it than that, this may not amount to anything but here it is.

1. Who is St. Germain,
answer — When a new student attends the first Classes — (students have to start a beginners Class sort of weeding out.) he most allways askes this when he does he is promptly told — Not to ask questions, —

Personal opinion: Some time ago (several years) I saw picture of a statue of a rather plump apparent[illegible] man — since [illegible]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
4 DEC 22 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

they are told or taught not to fear death: but to look upon it as an accession, and when ever any of there members pass on they are immediatly cut off of line of thought that is they are considerd ended, and are taught not to grieve (thus removing any sentamentality and building there fanaticisme to a higher plane than mear physical.

They were prohibited from taking notes in class (thus removing the possibility of spotter ect.) the lessons were supposed to be learned. Food: only ~~meat~~ Vegatables are to be eaten all Vitamans such as B1 ect. are to be; meat, fowl, fish ect. anything with a head is not to be eaten, - since as they say every animal knows for some time before it is to die and by eating the flesh that fear is absorbed by the body.

There are estamated about 3,000,000 three million students. the - set of books which they must buy to be admitted cost around $12.00 plus the monthly magaziens pictures, records, ect. there are several pictures possibly 6 or 7 that cost around .50¢ .75¢ ea. they also have a chart called a chart which at first I am told cost around $150.00 one hundred & fifty dollars since it has come down considerable in price the teachers say every one should have his own books as reading an other removes some of the power and if the person who borrows it has ill feeling toward the book the book rubs it and this tends to destroy the power through the book & this

they preach the power of the purple flame which is supposed to heal etc.

They are to demand there right, as to wealth etc. - to perciptate money. - If they want a new car & demand it and Go and behold a car— etc. the ones that come in & the moment like this part and they have in one hand usually — their shirts below, with bags of money over or around them which they set before them when trying to perciptate. Wealth they are taught never to turn down money as this soon builds up a wall around them. but to except all gifts freely and as if it were from the acended masters and not from the giver— (this often goes the wrong way or back fires & some extent, as sometimes one will get a job for another or do some small favor and instead of the recipitant thanking the giver as a personal favor, the recipitant thanks the giver or make no mention of it and this sort of goes against the grain, or the person will say — I decreed that the accended masters would do and so — and — just results —

They are taught that whatever the accended Master decree that is. What is to be — such as — I have had occasion & drive several of them from my place & there temple several times and as we would be going it we happend & get a Green light they would at once say — I decree an open path all other cars stop etc — one time I asked what if one car of Jains — Is going north and one car of Jains is they should get & the same time with the same Id

I will cut this shorter now as I have given
le of my (poor) reasoning.
However it could sum up & that — beside many
glorified racket could also in a much more
sister light be a grand buildup for rather
sabotage, fifth column, or even spy activity,
s if you consider the past information, also they
re supposed to be a patriotic organization
But mrs Ballard more than once has
said from her pulpit, — Blast the president
President Roosevelt, his family and all they
stand for from the face of the earth
for ever

And every thing the president did or does for
defense. and even before that was criticized
severely, this appeals to the members who
are Republicans or who owing to the program
are loosers in some way or another —
Die — one lady who came to our place
from Florida whose husband is a contractor
was with a co that did paving and when
these contracts were let to W.P.A. ect. it ended —
they arose there criticism well away way
she got sore — at the President —
this is to give just a summary of the
mental and temperments involved —
I am afraid I am being very boring
however as I said — for what it is worth —
They also are instilled with some sort of
contempt and close mouthed ness — if you
pardon me — for the F.B.I. which may
be for a much more than
there. Be

1, St. Germain — Could be Password for Germany
2. The Purple flame which heals and Cures
Could be a beacon light or signal given as
fanatical fervor in or under guise of making
their accession — ie — during an air raid —

3. Contempt for the president which is very much
stressed upon as to keep us out of War etc —
4, Diet such as to subdue any physical develop-
ment, and weaken,
5 Not eating anything with a head also could —
remove any possibility of the Student ever having
a head of his or her own —
6 What is or has been done with so much money
& what use has it been put to, it spent, what
supplies were bought etc, — and what disposition
has been made of the

7, Patriotic — to whom —?
Religious to what?
there pictures, certainly that of Victory is a
Militaristic with armor &
helmeted —

9, Their fanatical desire to ascend. (like the
which is built up — by lecture, speaking
etc, — When Mr Ballard passed on the word
spoken of as having deceased, it was not
so as to what he died of he nearly made
person i it he is now a saint

If this is not a setup for subversive activity.
am off my beam
Well, the largest class yet held, was — or is
be, held during this Christmas season and
seems a sort of tie in with present developmen
the West Coast. —
Ballard chose this, Los Angeles as — she said, it
as the best place since Los Angeles = Angeles =
ended Master = ect, or was it the air plane
ictures and navel bosses ect, near by —
ith a better kettle of fish cooking —
may I suggest, a shadow in event of a hired
voodoos from L. A.
Also if things turn out so during an emergenc
here and as if she or others are taken in & Custo
do so under cover I don't know why I say this
may just be I am nuts instead of —
If you or the department desire further infor
ation I may have, do not contact me via
ail with a Govt envelope as all mail here
seen by many and the F.B.I. as I hear
id is looked upon with great disfavor and sus
can be reached by mail or Phone RI, 369
his may seem to be a crank letter but well
I needs lead to Rome —

Sincerely
V Johnson

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DEC 30 1 26 PM '41
DIVISION
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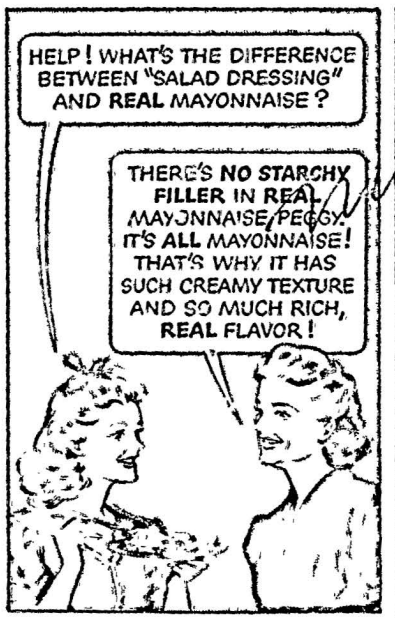
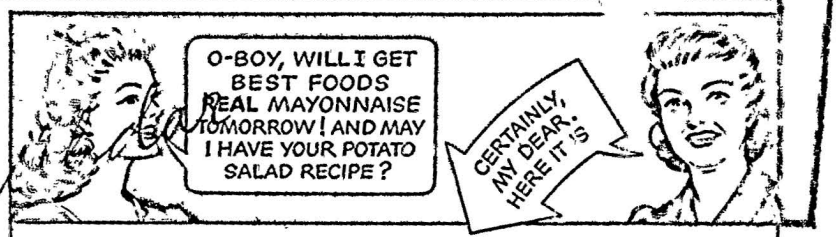
GGY GETS A POINTER ON SALADS FROM BOY-FRIEND'S CLEVER M




## PICNIC POTATO SALAD

- 4 to 5 cups cooked potato, cut in balls, diced, or sliced
- ½ cup scallions, cut in 1-inch pieces
- ¾ cup celery, sliced
- 2 cooked frankfurters, sliced
- 2 teaspoons salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup Best Foods *Real* Mayonnaise
- Hard-cooked eggs, sliced
- Whole radishes
- Romaine, or other salad greens

Lightly toss together potatoes, scallions, celery, frankfurters and seasonings with Best Foods *Real* Mayonnaise. Place in refrigerator to allow the *Real* Mayonnaise to blend and develop the flavors of these salad ingredients. This makes your salad amazingly more appetizing. Carry salad to picnic in covered bowl or jar. (Save your empty, quart-size Best Foods *Real* Mayonnaise jars for this purpose!) Arrange salad on romaine or other greens in salad bowl. Garnish with egg slices and radishes (as illustrated). Serves 6.

BEST FOODS

*Real Mayonnaise*

...ting Editor

Many inquiries ... to us regarding fishing ... the Jackson Hole country.

For the benefit of those contemplating this trip, here is a condensed version of an expedition undertaken by Jim Kitchen, his son, Albert; Ed Boyd and Maurice Staker.

They left Lake Henshaw at 7:30 a. m. and made Las Vegas late the same night. Leaving the next morning for Salt Lake City, they arrived at Yellowstone in the late afternoon. Here they picked up an expert fisherman guide, Eddie Exum, who knew the country thoroughly.

On the first day they fished Lake Hebgen where four limits of rainbow trout, averaging two and a half pounds each, were taken. These fish responded to wet flies, compromising gray hackle, brown hackle and black gnat.

The following morning, they drove an additional 30 miles to a private lake in Antelope Valley and again that evening were rewarded with four limits of trout from three and a half to four pounds each. Numerous five and six-pound fish were hooked into, but lost.

Early the following day they started out for the Snake River and Montana Lakes. They declare that without exception, they found this one of the finest fishing locations in the United States. There was a rise in every cast and some of the trout were of such size that they would break the leaders before they had a chance to fight them.

The next day they headed for Inland Lodge, where Joe Stewart, one of the hunting guides, took them out for their first elk trip. In this country, there are moose, elk, deer, black and grizzly bear. One has to watch himself at every step, as it's no fun to run on to a big grizzly when one's not prepared for him.

They hunted for two days. Each bagged his elk. The meat was packed carefully and carried back by the party in their cars. They arrived at Lake Henshaw with the meat in excellent condition and are heading back again shortly to enjoy this trip all over again.



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May... to ... be to pass ... to spurt th... opening in ...
Whatever ... just press ... treadle.
"Dy...
ALHAMBRA—Wilbur Automobile
ANAHEIM—Duns Motor Co.
BAKERSFIELD—Motor Center
BANNING—Marvin Leedom
BELLFLOWER—Wallik Motor Co.
BISHOP—Connel's Service Station
BLYTHE—R. S. Williams
BRAWLEY—Robertson & Durham
CHULA VISTA—Helm Brothers
COLTON—Valley Motors
COMPTON—Harry C. Clark
CORONA—Lester E. Cundiff
COVINA—Irvan G. Reynolds
CULVER CITY—C. Earl ...
EAST LOS ANGELES—...
EL CAJON—El Cajon ...
EL CENTRO—Roberts...
EL MONTE—Clifford ...
ESCONDIDO—Staff...

135

FEB 10 1942

FBI LOS ANGELES 2-10-42 6-15 PM

DIRECTOR

SAC EL PASO

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SOAK. "I AM", RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION, INTERNAL SECURITY. HEADQUARTERS OF "I AM" MOVEMENT LOCATED SIXTEEN TWENTY EAST EIGHTY FOURTH PLACE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, HOWEVER, MONTHLY MAGAZINE "I AM" IS PUBLISHED BY SINDELAR STUDIOS, LOS ANGELES, AND OFFICIALS OF "I AM" MOVEMENT HAVE NOT BEEN IN CHICAGO FOR SOME TIME. CHARLES SINDELAR, OWNER OF SINDELAR STUDIOS STATES THAT HE HAS HEARD NOTHING OF A REPORT ALLEGEDLY EMANATING FROM "I AM" OFFICERS TO EFFECT THAT JAPANESE WOULD BOMB ENTIRE PACIFI C COAST ON FEBRUARY TWELFTH. SINDELAR STATES THAT HE HAS HAD A MEETING WITH OVER ONE HUNDRED "I AM" STUDENTS AT SHRINE AUDITORIUM HERE THIS MORNING AND THAT NONE OF THEM HAVE HEARD RUMOR. SINDELAR STATES THAT RUMOR PROBABLY CIRCULATED BY ENEMIES OF "I AM" IN HOPE OF DISCREDITING ORGANIZATION WHEN PREDICTED BOMBING DOES NOT OCCUR. HOWEVER, SINDELAR STATES THAT EDNA BALLARD, HER SON DONALD, AND SEVERAL HUNDRED "IAM" STUDENTS DID RECORD SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, FOR EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE OF STARTING "IAM" SCHOOL AND NOT BECAUSE OF ANY BOMBING RUMOR. BUREAU ASKS THAT MRS. BALLARD AND A REPRESENTATIVE NUMBER OF "I AM" STUDENTS NOW IN SANTA FE BE INTERVIEWED IMMEDIATELY TO DETERMINE IF THEY HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE RUMOR AND, IF SO, TO ENDEAVOR TO DETERMINE IDENTITY OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT

62-5672-62

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
12 FEB 17 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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FEB 21 1942

FEB 10 8 29 PM '47
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F.B.I.
DEPT OF

PAGE TWO

AND OBTAIN COPIES OF ANY NOTICE THAT MAY HAVE BEEN ISSUED. YESTERDAY THE ONI AND G TWO AT LOS ANGELES WERE NOTIFIED OF THE RUMOR AND ADVISED FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING MADE.

HOOD

END

ACK PLS

EL PASO OK FBI EL PASO JPT

WASH 6-20 PM OK FBI WASH DC MM VV

FEB 10 6 26 PM '42

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F B I

COMMUNICATIONS

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62-56722-61

RECORDED

January 21, 1942

Mr. Harold Lee Johnson
854 West Adams
Los Angeles, California

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/21/82 BY SP8CTJ/ks

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 12, 1941, with enclosure.

It was indeed kind of you to bring this information to my attention and your courtesy and interest in so doing are sincerely appreciated.

Should you obtain any further information which you believe to be of interest to this Bureau, please feel free to communicate directly with Mr. R. B. Hood, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, 900 Security Building, Los Angeles, California.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

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MAILED
JAN 21 1942
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease

FBI LOS ANGELES 2-9-42 9-05 PM HY

DIRECTOR AND SAC EL PASO. SOAK.

"I AM" RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION, INTERNAL SECURITY. TELETYPE RECEIVED FROM SAN FRANCISCO BUREAU OFFICE STATING THAT WIFE OF DICK ABDIE, FIVE-NINE SCOTT STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, RECEIVED LETTER FROM "I AM" HEADQUARTERS INFORMING HER THAT ENTIRE PACIFIC COAST IS TO BE BOMBED FEBRUARY TWELVE NEXT. SAN FRANCISCO STATES IT IS UNABLE TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION FROM ABDIE AND SUGGESTS THAT OFFICERS OF ORGANIZATION BE INVESTIGATED FOR POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF SEDITION ACT. INPUIRIES HERE INDICATE THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF "I AM" SECT INCLUDING MRS. EDNA BALLARD, HEAD OF MOVEMENT, AND HER SON AND THREE HUNDRED DISCIPLES LEFT FOR SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, TO START NEW "I AM" SCHOOL. ON JANUARY THIRTY ONE LAST MRS. BALLARD AND HER SON DONALD WERE CONVITXXX CONVICTED IN FEDERAL COURT HERE ON MAIL FRAUD CHARGE IN CONNECTION WITH "I AM" MOVEMENT AND SENTENCE HAS BEEN DEFERRED PENDING HEARING ON APPEAL, DEFENDANTS HAVING BEEN AUTHORIZED TO LEAVE DISTRICT PENDING APPEAL. INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE CONDUCTED AT SANTA FE TO SEE WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMBING REPORT PRIOR TO FEBRUARY TWELVE. WHEN FORM OF NOTICE AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT DETERMINED, SUGEST BUREAU BE ASKED TO OBTAIN DEPARTMENTAL OPINION AS TO ACTION TO BE TAKEN. BALLARDS BELIEVED TO BE NATIVE BORN UNITED STATES CITIZENS. FOR YOUR INFORMATION FEBRUARY TWELVE IS A JAPANESE NATIONAL HOLIDAY.

HOOD

END 7 MAR 3 '42

ACK IN ORDER PLS

BUREAU 12-08 AM OK FBI WASH DC SP

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F B I
COMMUNICATIONS

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

RRR:ef

February 10, 1942

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Tour Room
Mr. Kease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Reference is made to the attached teletype from Los Angeles to the Bureau regarding "I Am," religious organization, which has advised that the entire Pacific Coast is to be bombed, February 12, 1942.

At the instructions of Mr. Kramer, the writer conveyed this information to Colonel J. T. Bissell of G-2 and lieutenant Commander Rhea Whitley of ONI at 3:00 P.M. today. The writer informed both of these gentlemen that the information was being checked on and that the respective field offices of each on the West Coast as well as headquarters in Washington, D. C., would be advised of any developments of importance.

In regard to this matter Colonel Bissell stated that the War Department had received information that February 12th is the date that the Japanese have claimed that they are going to oust General MacArthur and take Singapore from the British.

Respectfully,

R. R. Roach

RK

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DATE 11/29/82 BY SP2 B/Mc

memo - Attorney General
letters to ONI - G-2
FJS 2/13/42

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12 FEB 17 1942
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February 13, 1942

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL BY SPECIAL MESSENGER~~

Rear Admiral T. S. Wilkinson
Director of Naval Intelligence
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

11/29/82 SP2 BD/mg
# 225,190

Attention: Lieutenant Commander Rhea Whitley

Dear Admiral Wilkinson:

Reference is made to the information furnished to Lieutenant Commander Rhea Whitley of your office, February 10, 1942, telephonically, by a representative of this Bureau, wherein you were advised that information had been obtained by this Bureau to the effect that the entire Pacific coast would be subjected to a bombing raid on February 12, 1942.

An inquiry of Charles Sindelar, owner of the Sindelar Studios, Los Angeles, California, revealed that the monthly publication of the "I Am" movement is published at his studio. Upon being questioned concerning the alleged rumor, Sindelar stated that he had heard nothing concerning this matter, and that he had held a meeting with approximately one hundred members of the movement on February 10, 1942, and that none of them had heard of this information.

Sindelar remarked that he attributes the circulation of this alleged rumor to enemies of the organization.

An investigation is being conducted by this Bureau to determine the extent of the circulation, and, if possible, to ascertain the source from which this rumor originated.

Sincerely yours,

43965

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

FEB 21 1942

MAILED 2
FEB 14 1942

FJS:cgb

February 13, 1942

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~BY SPECIAL MESSENGER~~

Brigadier General Raymond E. Lee
Assistant Chief of Staff
G-2, War Department
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Colonel J. T. Bissell

Dear General Lee:

Reference is made to the information furnished to Colonel J. T. Bissell of your office, February 10, 1942, telephonically, by a representative of this Bureau, wherein you were advised that information had been obtained by this Bureau to the effect that the entire Pacific coast would be subjected to a bombing raid on February 12, 1942.

An inquiry of Charles Sindelar, owner of the Sindelar Studios, Los Angeles, California, revealed that the monthly publication of the "I Am" movement is published at his studio. Upon being questioned concerning the alleged rumor, Sindelar stated that he had heard nothing concerning this matter, and that he had held a meeting with approximately one hundred members of the movement on February 10, 1942, and that none of them had heard of this information.

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Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Keadon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

# Federal Bureau of Investigation
## United States Department of Justice
## Washington, D. C.

DML:WGR
Call: 9:40 P.M.
Transcribed: 10:15 P.M.

February 6, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

RE: I AM CULT

SAC Bryce of the El Paso Office telephonically advised that he had received information from Special Agent Ferris who is at Santa Fe that he, Ferris, had been informed by one [redacted] whom Ferris has found to be a very reliable informant, [redacted] that the I Am Cult is a Communist organization and is moving from the West Coast into the interior, that there are approximately fifty members of this cult presently in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Mr. Bryce stated that members of this cult have been coming to Santa Fe for the last two or three weeks and the El Paso Office has been watching them very closely.

Mr. Bryce advised that the local leader of the I Am Cult in Santa Fe is one Mrs. Dave Cholis (phonetic) the wife of District Judge Dave Cholis; and due to her connection with this organization, she and the judge are on the verge of obtaining a divorce.

Mr. Bryce stated that [redacted] informed her that the Communist Party had requested the cult to leave the West Coast inasmuch as within the next few weeks the Communists have organized for the expressed purpose of taking command of all railroad and blocking all highways with their personally owned automobiles in order to stop any travel along the West Coast and prevent the transportation of troops.

I told Mr. Bryce that the only information we had on this group was that it was a religious racket on the West Coast, that we had not received information that it was tied in with the Communist Party, but that there is a possibility that it might be tied in with the Communist Party and therefore he, Bryce, should follow this matter very closely, that all possible information should be obtained from informants with regard to this group, but that no investigation should be made. Mr. Bryce stated that he is sending another agent to Santa Fe to assist Ferris so that Ferris can devote most of his time to developing information from informants.

Mr. Bryce stated that he will submit a letter to the Bureau on the information obtained thus far and will keep the Bureau advised of all developments.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Mendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

b7D

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U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Denver, Colorado

February 13, 1942

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 11/29/82 BY SP4 BTJ/mg

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: "I AM" CULT,
INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

C #225,148

Dear Sir:

This is to advise that Special Agent THOMAS MYERS of the El Paso Field Division telephonically contacted Special Agent R. A. KNITTLE of the Denver Office on the afternoon of February 11, 1942, and advised that during the course of an investigation in California, it had been reported that the above-named cult had been engaged in subversive activities at the instigation of the Communist Party, and that rumors had begun that the cult is to destroy all railroads between the East and West Coasts upon instructions of the Communist Party; and, that a confidential informant at Santa Fe, New Mexico, had advised that the cult has been requested to block all highways and railroads with their private cars to prevent troop and material movements. It was also related that Mrs. DICK ABDIE, 49 Scoett Street, San Francisco, California, had received a letter from the headquarters of this cult, place not known, informing that the entire Pacific Coast would be bombed on February 12, 1942, which is a Japanese holiday.

Mr. MYERS stated that the Bureau had requested that certain members of this cult be interviewed openly concerning the above-mentioned rumors. He further stated that investigation had indicated that Mrs. EDNA BALLARD and her son, DON BALLARD, who have more or less recently assumed the leadership of this cult, are presently at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, Colorado, and it was indicated that they had received a telegram on the previous day and were possibly residing at the Brown Palace Hotel under the name of MUNDY.

Investigation revealed that DON BALLARD had registered at the Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, under that name on February 6,

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1942, and checked out on February 8, 1942; and, that a Mrs. G. W. BALLARD, together with a Mrs. B. O. MUNDY, had also registered at the hotel on February 6, 1942, and had taken adjoining rooms, having arrived at the hotel together. It was learned that both Mrs. BALLARD and Mrs. MUNDY were still registered at the hotel.

Both Mrs. BALLARD and Mrs. MUNDY were located in the lobby of the hotel by Special Agent R. A. KNITTLE and the writer, and were interviewed concerning the above-mentioned rumors. Mrs. BALLARD stated that she is the Secretary of the organization, and Mrs. MUNDY is her personal secretary, and is also a member of the organization. Mrs. BALLARD advised in the initial stages of the interview that she had been subjected to so much criticism and persecution by enemies of the "I AM" Cult that she did not care to answer any questions. However, after she was informed of the nature of the inquiry being made by this Bureau, she became very incensed and indignant, but stated she would also like to know the source of these rumors as there is no foundation in fact for them.

Mrs. BALLARD advised that the decrees of the "I AM" Cult have always condemned Communism, that they have always fought Communism, and have endeavored over the period of some nine years to make the American people conscious of the evils of Communism in this country. She stated that there is no organization, and that persons who participate in it are merely students who come freely and voluntarily to meetings which are held and which are open to any persons who care to come, regardless of race, creed, or color, and at the meetings the students are instructed in the proper manner of living so that they will be rewarded in the life to come. She stated that this organization is very patriotic, and in all of their meetings Americanism is taught. She advised that the rumor that the "I AM" Cult was planning or contemplating sabotage is the creation of some enemy of the cult and has absolutely no foundation in fact. She stated that the cult has so few friends as evidenced by the attitude of the entire population, and particularly newspaper writers, during the recent trial for mail fraud at Los Angeles, California, that she is unable to give even an indication of who might be responsible for starting such a rumor. Specifically referring to the letter that was allegedly written by the "I AM" Cult to Mrs. DICK ABDIE, she advised that no such

letter was ever written, and that the only person authorized to correspond in behalf of the cult is Mrs. MUNDY, her own personal secretary, who, for the past several months, has signed all mail, and that she is quite certain that Mrs. MUNDY signed no such letter, nor does the cult have any information regarding the contemplated war activities of the Japanese.

She further advised that the "I AM" Cult has no stationery with printed letterhead, and that the only stationery used in the past several months is that of the Biltmore Hotel at Los Angeles, California, where she and Mrs. MUNDY resided and considered as headquarters.

Mrs. B. O. MUNDY was also interviewed in this regard, and the information she furnished was substantially the same as that related by Mrs. BALLARD.

The summary of the above facts was furnished to Mr. R. P. KRAMER of the Bureau on the evening of February 11, 1942.

No further inquiry in this regard is contemplated by this office.

Very truly yours,

G. A. NICHOLSON
Special Agent in Charge

GAN:BMM

cc - Chicago
El Paso
Los Angeles
San Francisco

RES:LCB
47-12844

November 28, 1939

Mr. L. M. Shissler
806 Corinthian Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Shissler:

In acknowledgment of your letter dated November 21, 1939, concerning Guy W. and Edna Ballard, I wish to advise that a careful perusal of this letter fails to disclose any information indicating a violation within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Since the investigative activity of this Bureau is confined by Act of Congress to certain specified Federal violations, I wish to advise that there is no action which can be taken concerning the Ballards on the basis of the information contained in your letter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Orowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lesley
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

cc - Philadelphia

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# *Announcing*

*The*

# BRYAN BROCHURES

An Analysis

of the

# "MIGHTY I AM" MOVEMENT

THE ANSWER to the question "What are the Facts concerning Ballardism?"

●

## THE AUTHOR

**Dr. Gerald B. Bryan** is well qualified by a life-long study in occultism and mysticism to make this painstaking and accurate research into the Ballard claims and doctrines. His approach is a sympathetic one to the great body of superphysical facts and theories, but he is frankly critical of dictatorial and sen-

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# "THE GREAT AMERICAN HOAX"

Four years ago two Chicago people, then using the names of Mr. and Mrs. Godfre Ray King, left their home town to campaign for their "Mighty I AM Instruction," which they claimed to have received from their great Ascended Master Saint Germain. Today these individuals—having resumed their original names of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Ballard—are the autocratic rulers over a far-flung kingdom of "I AM" worshippers, embracing, so they claim in their literature and public utterances, "more than one million earnest students." In answer to certain criticisms directed against their methods and teachings they tell their psychologized audiences: "Don't believe us, PROVE us." And with dramatic gesture, they ask: "Can one million people be wrong?"

Accepting this challenge of proving these "Accredited Messengers," Dr. Gerald B. Bryan, of Los Angeles, has sought by painstaking and accurate analysis of their books, utterances, and personal records to prove or disprove their spectacular claims. He now has, as a result of this investigation covering a period of three years, information of vital import to all "I AM" followers and their friends. He presents astounding and incontrovertible facts about the originators of this amazing teaching—a teaching which is considered by their students the last word in personal and national salvation, and by others "the most gigantic metaphysical hoax of all time."

## A HUMAN DOCUMENT FROM A BALLARD STUDENT

*Showing how "I AM'ers" are psychologized into accepting the Ballard teachings.*

October 28, 1937.

My dear Dr. Bryan:

**Having just finished reading your analysis of the Ballard teaching I cannot refrain from telling** you my reaction as a student of the "Mighty I AM" teachings. [illegible] **I dared not** voice them. We were warned we must "accept" or "reject"—and if we rejected, well, we were in danger of something terrible, and for us to question the "Masters'" wisdom was not permissible.

Since reading that which you have dared bring forth, I see written exactly the same thoughts which came to my mind, but I—as I "accepted"? I feared to question or turn back. Years and years of seeking the Truth earnestly caused me to feel that at last I was really face to face with the Real and True, and at times when doubt would arise and questions force their way into consciousness, I would follow their instructions **forcefully.** Again—to my mind—the "Decrees" **were foolish and senseless; yet, I** obeyed. I dared not do otherwise. **To order** this Sublime Power to do things **"my way" was foreign to all other teachings through** which I had passed and from which I had [illegible] to criticize the Messengers or the Work," and I would again go forward with the group.

I feel—Oh! how shall I express it—much as though I had stood upon the threshold of a new and beautiful world which I had been invited to enter—and just as I was stepping into this glorious and enchanted world—Someone said: "Stop! You must not enter. **It is not what it seems to be."** So in my search after Truth I feel I have found only untruth. Instead of pure gold, it is only tarnished brass. Personally, I thank you, Dr. Bryan, for this uncovering.

Most sincerely,

M. E.

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# IF YOU WANT TO KNOW . . . . . .

**. . . the real facts** about Mr. Ballard's Mt. Shasta experiences and his voyage to India, together with certain discrepancies which the Ballards have not been able to explain away, which caused them to insist that their students burn the Bryan brochures without reading them — read **BROCHURE NO. 1**, "The I AM Experiences of Mr. G. W. Ballard."

If you want to know the wide divergence between the Ballard system and that of esoteric Christian philosophy, together with practical and helpful considerations of the Ballard Decrees and Invocations, their "Violet Consuming Flame," the "Mighty I AM Presence," the "Ascension," their condemnation of Astrology, etc., — read **BROCHURE NO. 2**, "The I AM Teachings of Mr. G. W. Ballard."

If you want to know the answer Mr. Ballard has made to the Bryan brochures, together with a scholarly analysis of the destructive "Blue Lightning" of the Ballards, their direful prophecies of cataclysms and other changes, their taboos, pledges, and fears of astral entities, their teaching that animals are creations of black magicians, etc. — read **BROCHURE NO. 3**, "The I AM Doctrines of Mr. G. W. Ballard."

If you want to know the real source of the Ballard writings, to compare for yourself what critics believe is the most startling and convincing evidence of literary piracy in metaphysical history, as shown by accurately recorded selections from the Ballard books, contrasted with almost identical quotations from books written many years previously — read **BROCHURE NO. 4**, "The Source of the Ballard Writings."

If you want to know the almost unbelievable nature and influence of the "Ascended Master Saint Germain," whom the Ballards have placed higher than the Christ, disclosures that are revealed by this "Ascended Master's" own **private**, and until now, unpublished letters, together with a brief history of the real and historical Comte de St. Germain — read **BROCHURE NO. 5**, "The Ballard Saint Germain."

## The BRYAN BROCHURES

*have received the sincere, spontaneous stamp of approval from "I AM" students and others over the entire nation. The following comments are but a few of the many hundreds received of similar nature.*

**From Boston:** "We wish to express our thanks to you for the painstaking analysis of the Ballard teachings. You have put into words just what a great many Ballard students have been mulling over in their minds and discussing among themselves."

**From San Francisco:** "You have, unquestionably, made a most masterful analysis of these teachings, and one so damaging in effect that one can hardly wonder that the Ballards left your letter unanswered."

**From Washington:** "We think you are doing a very useful thing in bringing these points to the attention of the Ballard readers, so they will begin to discriminate truth from mere human opinion and especially from imagination and psychic experiences."

**From Los Angeles:** "I express my appreciation [illegible] covering the sham and hypocrisy of those who allow themselves to be used as channels to counterfeit the glorious Truth and the Masters of Wisdom."

**From New York:** "Congratulations on the good taste in the way in which you have exposed this false movement which has enslaved so many by feeding them spiritual poison."

**From Chicago:** "We want to express our appreciation of the clear, masterly, and fair way your brochures analyze this so-called teaching."

**From Philadelphia:** You have a wonderful and amazing thing to offer — it is as startling and amazing as the thing you expose. With the added feature that yours is [illegible]

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# FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

*"I AM" students, teachers, and prominent educators have attested to the necessity and value of these brochures.*

**From an "I AM" Student:** "I greatly appreciate your unbiased, sane, and enlightening **Brochure No. 1** on the 'I AM Experiences of Mr. G. W. Ballard.' Thank you for sparing me much disillusionment."

**From a Teacher:** "Thank you heartily for **Brochure No. 2.** Another splendid piece of work. You are to be congratulated—clarity, interest, style, content—page for page it lures you on to the end. The spirit of it is so fine and constructive. More power to you."

**From a Doctor:** "Your **Brochure No. 3** is certainly a very laudable attempt to help those sole hungry mortals who are being tempted by the **'frothy sweetmeats and** sugared aloes' offered by the Ballards. They are putting out the most high-powered and dangerous New Thought teachings ever broadcast to anyone who has the price."

**From a Lawyer:** "I have gone over the contents of **Brochure No. 4** with much interest, and feel that you have presented it in a masterly way. There can be no question that the similarities of the Ballard books and other authors in the excerpts quoted in the brochure are most striking, and the only conclusion that one can draw is that an element of coincidence is impossible."

**From a Ballard Worker:** "This is to acknowledge the **receipt** of **Brochure No. 5,** for which I thank you sincerely. If there had been any doubt still lingering in my mind, surely **this would** have effaced it entirely. I wonder how they **dare** do such a thing!"

**From a Minister:** "You have done a tremendous service, **and** if your books could be placed into the hands of people when they are just becoming interested in the movement, they would prevent a lot of unnecessary misery which would ultimately come at their final disillusionment."

**From a Newspaperman:** "Dr. Bryan's exposé is a thorough job, one of which any newspaperman might be proud."

**From a Publisher:** "All earnest students of the Ballard teachings who wish to know the truth of the unsupported claims of their authors should read these brochures. No one can afford these days to be without the information they contain."

The price of these brochures is but 40c each; the complete set of five brochures, $2.00 **But see special offer below.**

## ORDER FORM

**TRUTH RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS,** Date ..............................

456 S. Western Ave.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Please send me the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] names and addresses of five "I AM" students which will entitle me to the **complete set of five brochures for the special price of $1.75** instead of the regular $2.00 price.

Enclosed is $ .............. (Money, Check, Money Order, Stamps).

Name ..............................

Address ..............................

City .............................. State ..............................

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P.S. Their Los Angeles address is 112[illegible] [illegible] Ave., [illegible] Angeles, and the Saint Germain Press, the distributing center for their books, is 1[illegible]0 [illegible] Place, in charge of Miss [illegible].

[illegible]

November [illegible], 19[illegible]

Federal Bureau of Investigations
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

On behalf of thousands of Americans who are in the Ballards' I AM Movement, which uses God and patriotism to ensnare its victims for the purpose of buying the Ballards' books and making "love gifts" to the Ballards, I sincerely make a SUPREME PLEA to you to kindly investigage them and deal with them in accordance with your findings.

Dr. Gerald B. Bryan of Los Angeles has exposed this racket in [illegible] brochures, and his forthcoming book is "Psychic Dictatorship in America."

The Ballards have high command over countless numbers of people throughout America. They tell their followers what to eat, what to wear, not to have children unless they are "immaculately conceived," and now the latest thing is instances where certain students have been instructed to divorce their husbands or wives. The latest case is that of Mr. Ben Norman, c/o L. M. Shissler, [illegible] Corinthian Ave., Philadelphia, Pa., whose wife Ballards instructed to divorce Mr. Norman.

Mr. Harry [illegible]. Rogers, 35[illegible] N. Van Ness, Los Angeles, Calif. was also instructed to leave his wife and two little children, or else leave the Ballard work. While he was "pondering" his decision, he received a telegram from the Ballards, dismissing him from their work. He and his wife, Catherine, were both on the Ballard staff. When Mrs. Rogers finally saw that it was a hoax, she dropped out, but Mr. Rogers still remained as he still believed. [illegible]

[illegible] staff members [illegible] Mrs. [illegible] address of Mr. and Mrs. Anton [illegible] and Mrs. [illegible], [illegible] staff members, who will tell you plenty.

The Ballards are scheduled to hold a 10-day class in the [illegible], WASHINGTON, D.C. beginning Nov. 24. Classes scheduled to precede the aforementioned had to be canceled, inasmuch as their [illegible] de luxe [illegible]-colored Chryslers and stage equipment were being held in Cleveland, for the reason that a [illegible] man and [illegible] were injured [illegible] resulted in a suit [illegible] the Ballards and the attachment of ~~xxxx~~ this property.

Anything you can do to expose this racket will be deeply appreciated by a great many who were fooled and who now wish to free those who remain in the flock.

A former student

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# THE BALLARD ST. GERMAIN

Dr. Bryan's latest book is now in its second edition

•

AN

*Expose*

of the

## Great "I AM" Hoax

of

Guy and Edna Ballard

•

A startling exposure of a so-called "Ascended Master," said to be the guiding genius of Bolshevism, whom tens of thousands are worshipping in place of Jesus the Christ.

The author Dr. Gerald B. Bryan has for the past several years been accumulating original documents of this cult which have never before been published.

This book purports to be an expose of the notorious hoax that is being perpetrated on the American people. Any profit resulting from its sale will be spent in warning the public against the pernicious activities of this un-democratic and anti-patriotic cult.

•

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Who is the real and historical Comte de St. Germain?
Grammatical vagaries of reputed Ba and "Masters."
Where the Ballards got their "Light and Sound Ray."
Saint Germain's opinion of Letter Carrier of New York.
How Baird Spalding's "Masters" visited the Ballards.
George W. Ballard the reincarnated George Washington.
How much money did St. Germain promise the Ballards?
Edna Lotus Ballard—her part in the great hoax.
What happened to St. Germain's "Very, Very Valuable Pal"?
The Ballard system of black magic and intimidation.
How the Ballard "Masters" swapped "I AM" discourses.
Psychic intoxication in democratic America.
Who really wrote the Saint Germain "I AM Discourses"?
Ancient Babylonian use of the Ballard "Blue Lightning."
How the great "I AM" hoax got under way in Chicago.
The 1929 grand jury indictment against Guy Ballard.

etc. etc. etc.

●

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## Picture at Chicago

[illegible] Fred MacMurray plays opposite her within [illegible] distance [illegible] does Allan Jones. The [illegible] cast [illegible] Helen [illegible] Mayer [illegible] and the [illegible] newcomer, Carolyn Lee. [illegible] stage [illegible] singing [illegible] and joking [illegible] the history [illegible]

## It's Not 'Sissy' to Skip Bonita's Rope

[illegible] Thomas [illegible] a 'sissy' one day when Bonita Granville invited him to try her jumping rope between scenes of Warner Bros' "Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase" now at the State-Lake Theater.

[illegible] changed [illegible] a few minutes later when [illegible] Callahan [illegible] fighter of the world, but now a studio property man, began to skip the rope.

## Horton Is Speaker at Rotary Luncheon

[illegible] Everett Horton is the [illegible] and principal speaker at the luncheon of the Rotary [illegible] Nov. [illegible] at the Hotel [illegible] Mr. Horton [illegible] the star of [illegible] at the Erlanger Theater.


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DES PLAINES [illegible] Menjou and Barbara Stanwyck in "GOLDEN BOY" [illegible] David Niven in "BACHELOR MOTHER"

DOWNERS GROVE.
B&K TIVOLI • 20c • [illegible]

ELMHURST.
YORK [illegible] Lamb in "Quick Millions" [illegible] Technicolor
"WIZARD OF OZ"

ELMWOOD PARK.
ELM [illegible] Barbara Stanwyck [illegible] "GOLDEN BOY" [illegible] "BACHELOR MOTHER"

EVANSTON.
B&K VARSITY [illegible] BETTE DAVIS "THE OLD MAID" Plus [illegible] "HERE I AM A STRANGER"


# Pegler

## Discovers a Bum in Idaho Breaking Into the Great I Am's Racket.

BY WESTBROOK PEGLER.

Los Angeles, Nov. 14—There appeared in Los Angeles on election day, when the queeries of the town were in their most susceptible mood, a page advertisement of [illegible] words by Dr. Frank B. Robinson of Moscow, Idaho, who claimed that he had talked with God and, for a price, is willing to reveal the secret of a new religion which he calls Psychiana. Some papers in some cities might reject such copy, but in Los Angeles the notice of a new revelation is no less ethical than a routine bargain in Boss-Fix Powders, Angel Down or Yogi's Bathwater. The faithful hunger and clamor for ham and eggs but never stint their holy men.

In Cleveland, where I saw him lately, the Great I Am, also of Los Angeles, had four new, expensive cars for himself and staff, time on the air and an archiepiscopal suite at the best hotel in town. The Great I Am was just calling on the trade, for Los Angeles is his seat and the California mountains are the scene of his occasional conferences with the Sacred Three Times Three, the great ascended spirits and a militant, gaseous god-force identified as K-17.

### The Law, in This Case, Is Ignorant.

As I recall his route, the Great I Am, known in private life as G. W. Ballard, would still be on the road, so I didn't bother to call, but did mention him to Mr. Buron Fitts, the district attorney, and was surprised to learn that this well-informed local official, whose detective bureau combines the best elements of the Gestapo and the FBI, never had heard of his eminent fellow citizen.

"The Great I Am?" Mr. Fitts said. "Is he new in the racket? Make a note of him, Klein. He may be someone we would like to know."

"But surely you know the Great I Am!" I wheedled. "He has access to a lake of gold on Mount Shasta [illegible] or public [illegible]."

"I never heard of the guy," Mr. Fitts said. "He is not a big shot."

"He can't be a big shot," Mr. Klein nodded.

### The Great I Am a Godly Dictator.

Mr. Fitts and Mr. Klein are blase about god-men. Occasionally they have to bust a flock for the sake of the lambs, which is a fine commentary on religious freedom, but that's the way it goes nevertheless. I attempted a comparison between the Great I Am faith and Psychiana [illegible] that the Prophet Ballard never [illegible] his [illegible] Dr. Robinson of Moscow, Idaho, follows [illegible] and gets excellent results [illegible].

Masters of the I Am religion can make themselves invisible [illegible] to tempt [illegible] and varsity backs, and there is said to be no limit to the material gifts which they command, including money. However, Mr. Ballard was not invisible in Cleveland, unless it be that I have second sight, for I vow I saw [illegible] plainly. Dr. Robinson gets his [illegible] recourse to sorcery and is proud, not to say a shade vulgar, on the subject of his cash receipts.

A [illegible] stray his writing says he was a beggar, and, if I may suggest a word, a bum, who worked only when forced to, and that seldom, until one day he struck up a conversation with God. Today he owns the largest office building in Moscow, Idaho; has a beautiful home with a magnificent pipe organ and drives a limousine, while his wife drives a new car and his son has a car of his own. His little girl isn't old enough to drive her own, but you just wait.

### The Doc Merely Wants to Grow.

Dr. Robinson doesn't mention his degree, but speaks of a little drug store which he had to abandon owing to the press of religious business, and country druggists commonly are called "Doc." For all his wealth he doesn't want money from his converts beyond enough to pay expenses—and grow. For growth he requires an unspecified proportion of the grow, but he extends a money-back offer to those who try Psychiana and don't get rich like him, with cars for all hands 'round, a pipe organ and all like that.

This seems a very attractive offer, and here he is working the Prophet Ballard's beat by mail while the Great I Am drags around the East, where the skeptics roost high.

The prophet better git for home. Somebody is messin' around his chicken coop.

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# 'I AM' CULTIST SUED AGAIN ON FRAUD CHARGE

## Ex-Disciple Asks $6,755 with Interest.

(Continued from first page.)

tells his followers that a lethal ray will strike any reporter who writes "vicious" lies about the I Am movement or about the Ballards. For there are three Ballards: Mr. Ballard, his wife, the former Edna Anna Wheeler of Chicago, a harpist whom he married in 1916, and their son, Donald, now 21.

Mrs. Ballard, who serves as high priestess, usually wears a flowing pink or royal evening dress and a diamond wreath in her blond hair, and alternates between a long pink matalon cape and a white ostrich wrap.

The Ballards insist the I Am is not a religion or a cult. They say it is the "only possible law of life." St. Germain is the guiding spirit. Ballard is assisted in sending shafts of light by the "ascended masters" these so sure that they were consumed by light, a form of spontaneous combustion, and wafted to the heights.

### Dictation from Gods.

At times one of the I Am gods such as Nada (goddess of love), Arcturus (liberty), Astrea or Orcmevis "dictates" to the Ballards in purple. Their words emitted through the mouths of Ballards in trancelike state, are a mixture of mysticism, fire, prophecy, and electrical phrases. Dynamics and electronics are pop alive words.

A reporter attended a meeting, snatching off her hat as she entered the opera house to conform to I Am procedure (the light descends better upon an uncovered head, it only penetrates to the chin, as all beneath [illegible]

[illegible]

The Ballards were on a stage bedecked with greenery, white artificial palms, and pictures, one of St. Germain. A huge banner, on which two saintlike figures radiated streams of light as well as the entire color spectrum, was suspended from the ceiling. What seemed to be a diamond heart in the light of Mrs. Ballard's later reference to "the golden rules for diamond hearts" and the [illegible] Ballard had a throne [illegible]

### Demands, Not Prayers.

The meeting opened with decrees. The I Am uses not for prayers. (One should not pray or beseech, they say; one must decree and demand.) Standing, in order to feel the activity of the light rays, they shouted some 30 decrees in unison, repeating each decree three times, such as

"Mighty Cosmic Light, come forth and do your perfect work now!"

They then sang, from yellow song

books songs such as "The Violet Flame" [illegible] "Aeolia Fidelas".

[illegible] "Mighty I Am [illegible]

Blaze us through [illegible]

Cause us to feel by living [illegible]

through me
"I Am" thou art perfection"
"I Am" thou art perfection"
"I Am" thou art perfection"
Released from thee

First one Ballard spoke and then the other. When Ballard made a particularly stirring remark his followers surged to their feet to engage in a strange Carchester cup of breast beating, often of five minutes duration. Ballard dismissed them with a tender "Go, my precious ones."

### Orders Full Pocketbooks.

He led them in [illegible]

[illegible]

He led them in "Decreeing," in which the followers shouted, in mighty [illegible] "Annihilate! Annihilate! Annihilate!" [illegible]

Queen Ballard: "Every one who opposes this light [illegible]

"Queen [illegible] Charge! Charge! Charge!"

"Any [illegible]

## 'I Am' Leader Sued

(Story starts on page 1.)

Guy W. Ballard, high priest of the I Am cult, and his wife, Edna, his high priestess. Ballard was sued again yesterday by a former disciple who charged conspiracy and intent to defraud.

# 'I Am' Cultist Sued Again on Fraud Charge

BY MARCIA WINN.

(Picture on page 2.)

Guy W. Ballard, the mystic high priest of the I Am cult, who claims to be the only living man to whom St. Germain speaks in person, was the target of new charges in Cook county courts yesterday.

Mr. Ballard is a sharp featured man of 60 with a [illegible] complexion and a honeyed voice. He started his business career as a paperhanger, and now says he is this earth's leading apostle of a [illegible] cult of color and clamor, "the only sensible law of life." He says this the Great Cosmic Light [illegible] from the Great I Am presence. He has been in and out of Chicago, interested in one occult scheme after another, since 1915. His name has been in and out of the Cook county courts since 1929.

### Pink—"the Color of Love."

Mr. Ballard wears only white, symbol of light, which is to that is pink, the "color of love." Since 1929, the secrets of existence present and future have been revealed to him, he says, by St. Germain, an "ascended being" who has lived many lives, last having taken residence on earth in the person of Francis Bacon, but also connected with the prophet Samuel and Uncle Sam.

Mr. Ballard has a weary stance on a choice vocabulary of invective. All individuals in Chicago who oppose his Light, he promises his followers, "will go to [illegible]." He leads his followers, most of whom wears red (red is carnal) or black (powers of darkness), in torrents of what he terms "blasting" against the enemies of I Am. He promises to send "the cows and pigs and lambs who have been deprived of life in your stockyards to haunt them." At such remarks his followers shout: "Annihilate! Annihilate! Annihilate!" meanwhile [illegible]

Mr. Ballard [illegible] is concluding a 10-day I Am festival at the Civic Opera house. A former follower, Miss Mary Ingham, who strayed from his mystic fold, when he was following Vogt rather than St. Germain, seeks this opportunity to charge him with conspiracy and intent to defraud.

Asks Return of $6,755.

Miss Ingham first filed suit against Ballard in 1938, asking for the return of $6,755 [illegible] per cent interest, $10,000 she claimed to have loaned him in 1928-29 for private business ventures. Yesterday, through her attorney, Arthur F. Beck, she filed an amended complaint before Judge John P. McGoorty in Superior court.

In this she tells in detail of a "lake of gold," she says she was induced by their "mutual interest in mysticism and the occult arts and sciences" to help him buy the lake. She gave him the money, she thought, to buy up the last 7,500 acres needed to pump out the gold and other minerals.

Miss Ingham charges that Ballard was secretary of a group known as Cottonwood Association, Ltd., formed to extract fabulous minerals from Owens lake in Inyo county, Cal., about 200 miles northeast of Los Angeles. The association in reality owned none of the lake shore, she charges, never made any attempt to develop the project, and was formed only as "a conspiracy and scheme to defraud the plaintiff and others of money."

### Twice Indicted in 1929.

Ballard left Chicago between 1927 and 1929, Miss Ingham charges, and returned upon "infrequent intervals." He was twice indicted here in 1929 on confidence game charges, instigated on the complaints of many women who said they lost thousands in the same "lake of gold" promotion. These indictments were not pressed last year after restitution or satisfaction.

Mr. Ballard's background is unrevealed in the mysticism in which he delights. When he first came to Chicago in 1915, presumably from a small town in Iowa, he appeared suddenly one day at the office of Dr. Albert Cochrane, a chiropractor whose offices now are at 30 South State street, and told Cochrane he had clairvoyant powers. He was directed to the office, he said, by a ray of light that shone on Cochrane's name when he opened the telephone directory.

Fourteen years later, in 1929, when Ballard first announced the revelation of the I Am movement which he says he received on the top of Mount [illegible]

[illegible]

Ballard angrily rejects the suggestion that he discuss his past. He

(Continued on page 2, column 6.)

...veral thousand dollars. The Heather is owned by Robert H. Cameron, ...ident of a machinery manufacturing company at 210 North Ashland ave.


FLOOR

...arm in Hub

...OW SUITS

...es 8 to 14 $16.98

... Coba cloth. Famous ...eight. Perfect-fitting ...velvet collar. Beauti... ...anese lining.

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...ket with convertible ...r extra warmth. Zip ... to 16.

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...HUB

...tton & Sons

...ON ◆ OAK PARK ◆ GARY


...one of the longest and most se... fall drouths on record. The rains were preceded by scattered showers in many sections earlier in the week.

Farmers were cheered by the hope that enough rain had fallen to soften the soil for fall plowing and sowing of winter wheat. Next year's crop of winter wheat was being threatened because farmers were unable to work the dry soil and prepare it for planting. Only a little wheat has been sown. A good portion of the winter crop usually is planted by the last of September.

### Pastures Brown and Dusty.

Pastures in Illinois and adjoining states are poor. Many had been brown and dusty for more than a month. Some already are beginning to green up, following light rains Monday and Tuesday.

Rainfall at weather bureau stations in Illinois during the first twenty-nine days of this month averaged less than half an inch. The mean September rainfall for the state over the last 30 years has been 3.77 inches.

Most weather bureau stations in Indiana report that less than an inch of rain had fallen in the last six weeks. Water supplies for live stock had become a serious problem on many farms in Iowa. Good rains were general over Iowa Thursday night. ...heat pastures had cut milk production on dairy farms in Wisconsin where most dairymen were forced to feed their herds stored roughage to offset the lack of green forage. There have been showers each day this week in most of Michigan.

### New Grasses Damaged.

The drouth damaged new seedings of grasses and legumes made last spring. Poor stands have resulted in some fields and the young plants in others have been stunted until they are thought to be in poor condition to withstand winter weather.

There have been some favorable results from the dry weather. It has made possible early harvesting of the ...'s crops of corn and soy beans. Much of the corn is dry enough to be ...ked and stored. Corn picking already has started in most sections of Illinois.

Drouth and hot weather ripened ...y beans faster than usual and part of the crop has been harvested. The acreage of soy beans in the corn belt is the largest on record. High yields are expected. Eighty-five per cent of the crop in Illinois is reported safe from frost.

## ...abin Cruiser Damaged in River; Hit by Barge

The Heather, a 36 foot cabin cruis... was damaged last evening ... ... [illegible] ... barge ... ... ... street. The barge ... ... was moving south on the river ...shed by a tug, when it struck the ...eather which was going north. Capt. ...avy Jones, who lives on board the ...uiser, estimated the damage at


...Daily ...

WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER...

...TURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1939.—32 PAGE...


# ...EBUFF P...

SUNK WITHOUT WARN...

## LABOR BOARD ORDERS TEXTILE COMPANY TO...

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ballards (full explanation in newspaper articles enclosed regarding who they are) are now in your city conducting what they call "lectures."

Please investigate these people and do everything possible to prevent their continuing this racket. Thousands of American people have put their whole-hearted confidence, as well as their life's savings into this confidence game. It is a swindle, as many of their former followers are finding out to their great disillusionment and loss of money, their homes, families, and friends.

Mr. Ballard has several aliases, and is known in Los Angeles as Guy Ballard and Richard Ballard, and in San Francisco as Dick Cameron.

Books warning the public of this activity are 5 brochures by Dr. Gerald B. Bryan of Los Angeles. Also there are two very recent books: The Strangest Cases, and Sight Unseen, by Frederick S. Lieb, published by Harper's. Dr. Bryan is now writing "Psychic Dictatorship in America," which deals with the Ballards.

Their Saint Germain Press is located at 1t70 E. 57th Place, Chicago (a bungalow where the Ballards formerly lived, where the bookkeeping and other office routine is done -- the books are printed by Donnelley, Chicago).

Donald Ballard, their son, who often travels with them, lives at 11137 Kentana Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

Believe they are at the Masonic Temple or Rialto, Washington, D.C. at present time.

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# Pegler

## Visits 'Great I Am' Cult Session and Finds Leader Is Doing Nicely.

BY WESTBROOK PEGLER.

[illegible], Oct. 24.—It seems im[illegible] possible that in all history the hu[illegible] man race has produced any more humiliating rebuke to its claims of reason and dignity than a certain congregation of about 1,000 Americans who have been gathering afternoons and evenings lately in Cleveland to take part in a religious [illegible] known as the Great I Am.

[illegible] anyone who derides the religious faith or rites of any group is venturing on to dangerous ground, but the members of this [illegible], not being legally insane, have [illegible] become accessories to the most revolting travesty in the [illegible] record of religious [illegible] in the United States.

The leader is one G. W. Ballard, who has invented a list of saints and demons and who asserted in a [illegible] broadcast the other evening that one of his holy spirits had taken the liberty of destroying with a sword of flame a number of [illegible] submarines bent on the destruction of America. Scoop!

The saint was identified as [illegible] K-17, and Ballard had the gall to announce to normal people who were listening to the radio that K-17 had removed from these submarines certain [illegible] containing plans for the destruction of this country, the details of which would be revealed in due course.

He also had private advices that the ascended spirits, using the same weapon, had just routed a flight of Japanese bombers attacking a city in China. This was another scoop.

**Headquarters in California.**

The headquarters of the cult naturally are in Los Angeles, but Ballard and his wife, a rugged, [illegible] with a nagging [illegible] Cleveland.

They travel de luxe, maintain a [illegible] of expensive yellow [illegible] and carry a staff whose duties include the sale of literature, phonograph records and pictures and the [illegible] of [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] to the [illegible].

When I [illegible] a sheaf of booklets to confirm in print what I had heard by [illegible] from the platform one of the brothers stepped up and said: "That will be just [illegible]." My books contain the most [illegible] gibberish, but in an unexpected way are worth the money.

One, for example, claims that St. Germain, the No. 1 [illegible] of that ascended spirit [illegible], worked [illegible] for the "upliftment" of England and wrote the works of William Shakespeare. It [illegible] in the [illegible] for the [illegible] that St. Germain concealed [illegible] the very [illegible] of Will Shakespeare a code message signifying that it was the will of the Great I Am to shake the [illegible] of wisdom at the darkness of ignorance. "So help me God, it is."

**Take Turns on Platform.**

Ballard and his wife take turns on the platform babbling such incoherent [illegible] about black magicians, gas [illegible] the earth, cataclysms, [illegible] flames and a lake of gold [illegible] mountain as surely never has been heard outside a madhouse.

The [illegible] on sale range in price from [illegible] to $15.

Speaking with a slight brogue, Ballard [illegible] "tremendous," sometimes uses the singular verb with the plural noun and invokes the cosmic [illegible], the unfed flame and the sacred three times three to remove all [illegible] agitators, abolish all debt and prevent the publication of false reports about the Great I Am.

Ballard's followers are obviously not poor, possess a deceptive outward appearance of intelligence and include [illegible] uncertain pers[illegible] in comfortable circumstances. [illegible] claims to have made himself [illegible] visible one [illegible] last week. He know[s] he was invisible because his pet cat coming into the room where he [illegible] invisible didn't purr and [illegible] against his legs, as it usually does, and therefore must have been unable to see him.

Ballard bought $1,500 worth of radio time in Cleveland and must have done all right.

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# PICK OF THE AIR

## TONIGHT.

7:00 to 7:30 p. m., WMAQ-NBC—Johnny presents Johnny Green's orchestra and a dramatization, "The Knight's Bridge Mystery," which deals with a father who went to prison and faced execution to save his son.

7:00 to 7:30 p. m., WLS-NBC—The Aldrich Family, with Ezra Stone. Betty Field, screen star, will make her second appearance as Henry Aldrich's new love interest, Barbara Pearson.

7:00 to 7:30 p. m., WBBM-CBS—"Big Town," with Edward G. Robinson. In his role of "Steve Wilson," Edward Robinson foils the attempts of crooked gamblers [illegible]

[illegible] p. m., WMAQ-NBC—Horace [illegible] orchestra.

[illegible] p. m., WENR-NBC—Information [illegible] Franklin P. Adams and John Kieran. Guests [illegible] author, and Deems Taylor, musical authority.

7:30 to 8:00 p. m., WBBM-CBS—"Tuesday Night Party," with Walter O'Keefe, master of ceremonies. Guest, Ethel Merman, songstress.

8:00 to 8:30 p. m., WENR-NBC—Melody and Madness, featuring Robert Benchley. Guest, Hugh Herbert, comedian.

8:00 to 8:30 p. m., WBBM-CBS—We, the People, with Gabriel Heatter interviewing Alfred E. Smith and his son, Alfred E. Jr.

8:30 to 9:00 p. m., WMAQ-NBC—Fibber McGee and Molly, comedy program.

8:30 to 9:00 p. m., WBBM-CBS—Bob Crosby and his Dixieland Band.

9:00 to 9:30 p. m., WMAQ-NBC—Bob Hope's Comedy with Judy Garland, Jerry Colonna and Skinnay Ennis' orchestra.

9:00 to 9:30 p. m., WBBM-CBS—"Time to Shine," with Hal Kemp and his orchestra.

9:00 to 9:30 p. m., WENR-NBC—Neutrality will be discussed by Senator Hiram Johnson.

9:30 to 10:00 p. m., WENR-NBC—Fun with the Famous, with Mort Lewis, master of ceremonies. Guests, John B. Kennedy, commentator; Russ Morgan, orchestra leader; Harry Hershfield, cartoonist, and Tuffy Leemans, halfback of New York Giants.

9:30 to 10:00 p. m., WGN—The Northerners, male octet. Local.

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appear on the comedy broadcast
FUN WITH
THE FAMOUS

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### THE GREAT I AM.

Was interested in Pegler's article on the "Great I Am." He wrote without exaggeration of the bunk and weird show the Ballards put on. We heard them here in Chicago, and of all the religious shams foisted on a willing gullible public this the "Great I Am" is the greatest. All dressed in white, standing before the "Purple Flame," Ballard, the slight "Great I Am," dared to proclaim himself Jesus Christ. Said he had come out of the tomb and ascended on high. Such sacrilege and blasphemy! They are reaping a great harvest. It is a very lucrative business, this fooling the public.

Chicago STAR CASSIN.

### ARMISTICE.

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# THE GREAT I AM GOES ON AIR WITH NEW VIBRATIONS

## Tries Hydraulic Pressure in Book Selling.

Guy W. Ballard, high priest of the Great I Am movement, who got into difficulties with the sheriff's office here last fall, is back in the limelight, this time on the radio waves. Actually, the radio waves convey only a reflection of Ballard, an "ascending master" in the cult of the "Expanding Light," for Mrs. Ballard is his vehicle on the radio.

The broadcasts, electrically transcribed, are commercially sponsored on a group of stations. Among these is WIND, Gary and Chicago.

The full name of the Great I Am cult is "I Am the Law of Life." But it is not easy, despite Mrs. Ballard's powerful expositions, to say what that law is. She speaks much of "vibrations," "electronic energies," "radiations," and "hydraulic pressure."

**Indicted in Stock Scheme.**

Cynics assert that some of these phrases are probably throw backs to the mining days of Ballard. Ballard was twice indicted in Chicago on complaints of women who asserted they lost many thousands in his "Lake of Gold," a mining stock scheme. These indictments were not pressed last year after the complainants obtained restitution or satisfaction.

In October, 1938, Ballard was served with summons informing him that he was the defendant in a suit filed by Miss Mary Ingham of Niles Center, who sought $10,000 from him. The summons mentioned that she had financed him in private ventures after they were drawn together through their mutual interest in "mysticism and the occult sciences." She wanted the money returned—and with interest. The case is on the superior court calendar for September.

The I Am teachings, as explained by Mrs. Ballard on WIND, picture a struggle between the "vibrations" of the elect and those still outside the fold. The "ascendant messengers" radiate light and happiness. But the vibrations of mundane mentals are like a poison gas that fills the air with sticky gray fog."

These personal radiations, Mrs. Ballard explains in monotonous repetition, are the causes of crime, plague, fears, mob violence, and many other assorted evils.

The broadcasts make it clear that the Great I Am movement is not interested in money. But the incontrovertible fact is that the Ballards are seeking cash. At the public meetings of the cult no plate is passed but "love offerings" are encouraged.

On the air the exhortations take the form of teasers. There is much talk of "I Am's efforts for the public good, and for the protection of America." Listeners are urged to get the details by addressing a certain post office box number or repairing to a local "sanctuary." Inquiry quickly revealed that the Great I Am is a book selling scheme. Prices start at $1.75 and for $16 one gets a whole set.

These volumes are filled with mumbo jumbo and forensic [illegible] reminiscent of Father Divine. St. Germain, the master, has been reincarnated many times. St. Germain is probably that same adventurer and alchemist, who during his life time, ending about 1780, startled the capitals of Europe with his fantastications. His most remarkable story concerned his discovery of a liquid that enabled him to live 2,000 years, part of the time as Sir Francis Bacon. The Ballards also connect his personality with that of the prophet Samuel and Uncle Sam. [illegible]

Despite the latter association, the Ballard books warn: "America needs your help now as never before."

That call for help is a call for money for the Ballards. They split it with the radio stations which broadcast the appeals.

Best Available Copy

Cleveland Press

Local Forecast: Fair tonight and tomorrow with rising temperature.

CLEVELAND, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1939

# 800,000 FOR

## St. Germain's 'Aid' Gets Gold by Decree

### Cleveland Messenger Uses Four Expensive Canary Yellow Cars

By WILLIAM MILLER

You want to watch out for G. W. Ballard, who has a ritzy suite of rooms over at Hotel Cleveland and four sleek canary yellow Chryslers in the Terminal Garage.

If he doesn't happen to like you the old boy will put a curse on you, and his curses are so potent he can sink German submarines just by thinking about it.

Mr. Ballard, his wife, and son, Donald, they declare, are the Accredited Messengers of St. Germain, who used to be Shakespeare and the Prophet Samuel and who now dwells with the 98 other Ascended Masters at the retreat on Mt. Teton.

**"Proof" in "The Voice"**

If you do not believe they are the accredited messengers, you can verify the fact from St. Germain himself in the articles he writes in Mr. Ballard's magazine, The Voice. Jesus, another of the 99 Ascended Masters, is also on the staff and requested a full page of color in the January, 1937 issue.

You had better consult the Internal Revenue Department before drawing any hasty conclusions about Mr. Ballard.

The Ballard income, though not publicly known, is at least in the four-canary yellow Chrysler class and sufficient to arouse the interest of the Government, which is currently trying to pierce the Invincible Wall of Light which makes Mr. Ballard bulletproof and immune to enemies. He also has a blue ray, a violet consuming flame and thought octaves.

**Just "Decree" Money**

Should he run out of money it is a simple matter to get more. If necessary, he can tap a lake of gold which is at the earth's core and whose location is known to him.

It is simpler, however, to "decree" some money, because as it has been written in The Voice: "The principal thing in financial demonstration is [illegible]

[illegible] you wish to use is absent. It only has an appearance of absence. YOU CAN JUST AS EASILY FIND $10,000 IN YOUR POCKET AS 10 CENTS."

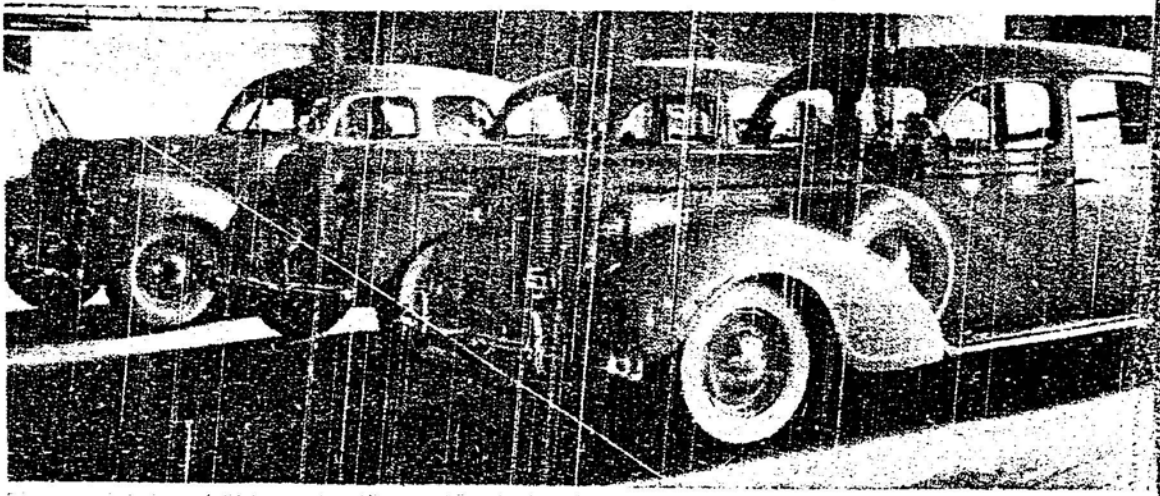
**Gold Bubble Bursts**

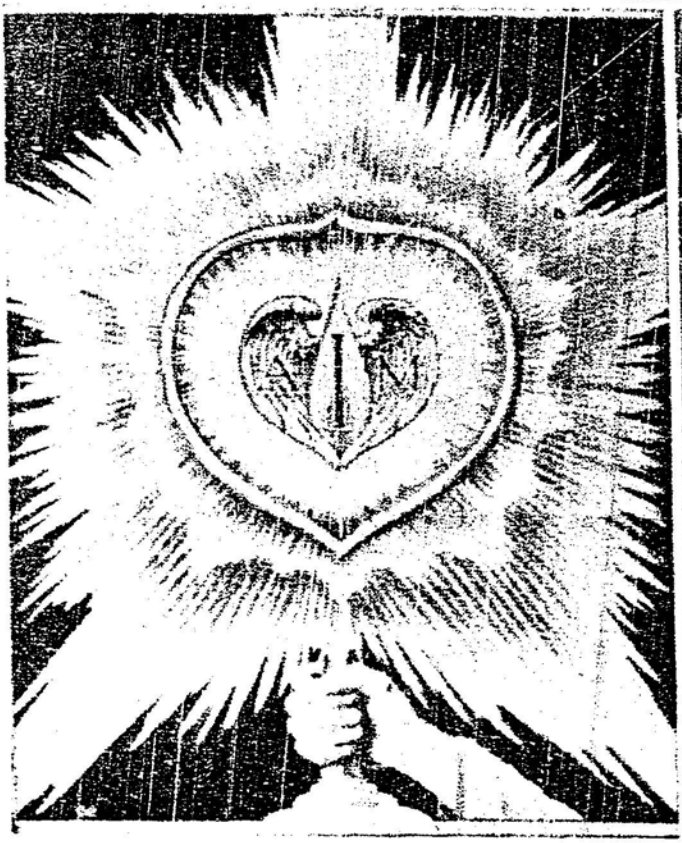
However, there was a time—back, of course, in the days before he discovered the Great I Am—when Mr. Ballard did attempt to mine the

Best Available Copy

THE CLEVELAND PRESS

# Light Ray Stops Bullets, Sinks Subs





Three of The Great I Am's canary-yellow Chryslers are shown above in repose in the Terminal Garage. The fourth, flagship of the I Am motor fleet, was conveying the Accredited Messenger and his Consuming Flame about the city. The I Am shield, which looks as if it would be pretty hot to hold, is shown below together with a representation of the Mighty I Am Presence, explained as follows: The inner Image represents the human or flesh body, the upper figure represents the Individualized Presence of God, which is the Electronic Body of the Mighty I Am Presence. The Ray of Light, which goes from the Heart of the Presence through the top of the head, anchoring within the heart of the flesh body, is the Life, the Light, the Substance, the Energy, the Intelligence and the activity by which the physical body has life and is enabled to move about. When your attention goes to the Mighty I Am Presence the Ray of Light and energy begins to intensify and expand. Within the point of Light within [illegible] of the flesh body responds to it. Then the process of [illegible] all the divine qualities of the flesh body begins. As the [illegible] the Radiance forms a [illegible] of Light about the flesh body so invincible, so impenetrable that even a bullet cannot penetrate it. Around the flesh body is the Violet Consuming Flame which destroys one's enemies and sinks submarines.

Best Available Copy

# St. Germain's Aid Decrees His Gold

## Cleveland Messenger Also Sinks Subs

*(Continued From Page One)*

lake of gold, and organized a company for that purpose.

Miss Mary Ingham, who says she invested $6755 in this project, is currently suing the Accredited Messenger in Chicago, for this amount plus interest.

Mr. Ballard was indicted twice [illegible] Chicago in 1938 on confidence game charges, as a result of the "lake of gold" bubble. The charges were [illegible] after restitution had been made to many victims.

As the Accredited Messenger of St. Germain—who, as Francis Bacon, wrote the plays of William Shakespeare and for the last several years has been going under the name of Freedom—Mr. Ballard wields not inconsiderable power in the country.

### Claims Half Million

He claims 500,000 followers and whether that figure is exaggerated or not, the true number is at least sufficient to maintain an elaborate temple in Los Angeles, meeting rooms in various cities, a press and substantial traveling expenses for The Messengers.

Some night if you stop outside 1222 Prospect avenue you may see several score of his followers solemnly chanting "affirmations" in the second floor "sanctuary." Mrs. Viva January of the Hotel Carter leads this group.

During the presence of The Messengers, $1600 worth of radio time has been taken on WHK and twice daily you may hear Mrs. Ballard announce: "The cosmic hour has struck!" and explain the Invincible Wall of Light in which it is possible for mothers to wrap their sons to save them from the war. If enough people do this the war will stop

Americ[illegible] during [illegible] gineers' [illegible] meetings [illegible] AM do n[illegible] crew, in [illegible] [illegible] all this, [illegible] labor [illegible] [illegible]tivities," [illegible] dope activity" are [illegible] list of I AM enemies to [illegible] destroyed by the Violet Flame.

I AM is not a religion but a "great patriotic movement to save America," according to Mr. Ballard. The saving will be done by St. Germain, and the "Great Divine Director," who evidently is the fuehrer of Mt. Teton.

The curious thing about the I AM movement is its appeal to people who look to be above-average in both intelligence and means. Not a few wealthy people are among its adherents, two-thirds of whom are composed of middle-aged or elderly women.

At the beginning of a meeting the I AMS repeat three times the following "edcrees":

"Mighty Cosmic Light, come forth and do Your Perfect Work NOW!"

"The Forces of Light move into action with Full Power and are Victorious NOW!"

"Mighty Arcturus, come forth in That Light as of a Thousand Suns and consume all human selfishness and discord from the planet."

"The Light of God never fails and the Mighty I AM Presence is that Light."

"We say to all human creation: You have no Power! Your day is done! Be thou dissolved and consumed from the face of the earth forever.

"The limitless Legions of Light now sweep across the face of the earth, and all human darkness disappears."

Herald and Examiner
Chicago's NEWSpaper
MONDAY OCTOBER 10, 1938

ONE LEADER of the Great I Am movement, which is described at length on Page 3, is Mrs. Lotus Ballard, who is shown addressing a crowd of followers at the Civic Opera House.

ONE FOLLOWER of tall, gray-haired, resplendently garbed G. W. Ballard (see picture on Page 3) is Florence Bulow of Maywood, who is shown applauding at a big I Am meeting.

MORE FOLLOWERS of the Ballards are shown in this view inside the Civic Opera House. They are hearing explained what is called the Great Cosmic Light emanating from the Mighty I Am Presence. The Ballards say they became Accredited Messengers of the I Am when the mysterious Count Saint Germain, an alchemist of the eighteenth century, revealed to them the Light. Its rays, say the Ballards, can accomplish any desirable good for those who are able to receive them. All you have to do is know how, and that's what the Ballards are here to teach, they say.

HOME ★★★

Herald Examiner
Chicago's NEWSpaper

VOL. LVIII--NO. 132 Registered U. S. Patent Office FRIDAY—OCTOBER 14—1938

2 CENTS IN CHICAGO AND SUBURBS, 3 CENTS ELSEWHERE

# WOMAN SUES 'GREAT I AM'

—STORY ON PAGE 3

THE "ACCREDITED MESSENGER" (SEATED) OF "I AM" ABOUT TO BE SERVED WITH A SUMMONS

Bailiff Anton Cichowicz (against wall) served the summons despite pandemonium among the followers of "I Am." Their leader, Guy W. Ballard, is being sued by Miss Mary Ingham of Niles Center for $10,906. Story on Page 3.)

Best Available Copy



# Roosevelt Calls on City to Speed Subway Work

**Out of the White House at Washington yesterday came orders for Chicago to "start shoving the shovels" for its $40,000,000 subways.**

In the nature of a warning, those orders were tied to President Roosevelt's formal approval of an $18,000,000 federal grant for the project.

The White House spokesman made it clear that action and speed is demanded to forestall any criticism, that the allocation was merely a vote getting expedient for the November 8 election.

To demonstrate its good faith, Chicago, it was stated, must speedily put up or demonstrate beyond doubt its ability to provide its $22,000,000 share of the cost.

### *Plans Rushed by City*

Rush orders already had been issued here. More than fifty engineers and draftsmen were busy yesterday on specifications preparatory to the call for bids on sections of the big job.

PWA Administrator Ickes' subway commission members are expected here next week to help get work started by December 15.

As for Chicago's share of the cost, Mayor Kelly announced that Chicago would provide it speedily, even if "it had to dig deeper than the subway to get it."

He revealed that the revised subway plans necessitate a new subway ordinance, which is being drafted for submission at next Thursday's council meeting.

It will provide for a city subway commission to co-operate with the PWA commission in seeking bids and supervising construction.

### *Bridge Funds Sought*

At Mayor Kelly's direction, the city also made inquiries at Washington concerning its request for a grant of $1,250,000 for a $2,000,000 replacement at the State st. bridge, necessitated by the subway project.

The under-river link in the State st. subway cannot be dug until the present bridge is removed because its foundations would interfere with the tubes.

The new bridge will be 108 feet wide, with six traffic lanes. Dearborn st. bridge, which will have much of the load while the State st. structure is being built, is now being strengthened.

Purchase of $20,500,000 worth of materials and employment of 7,000 skilled and unskilled workers on the subway were pointed to as among the benefits Chicago will reap from the big project.

Most of $20,500,000, it was estimated, will be spent in the Chicago industrial region for steel and other materials, and will provide 831,750,000 man hours of employment in private industry.

### *12,626,000 Work Hours*

The subway itself will provide 12,626,000 man hours of work.

Here are some quantities of the materials that will be bought with the $20,500,000:

Steel sheet piling, 9,388 tons; 342,000 cubic yards of concrete, 14,800 tons of reinforcing steel, 1,078,105 cubic yards of excavation, 30,000 tons of structural steel, 32,200 tons of steel liner plates and ribs, 147,000 cubic yards of sand back fill, 261,000 square feet of structural glass.

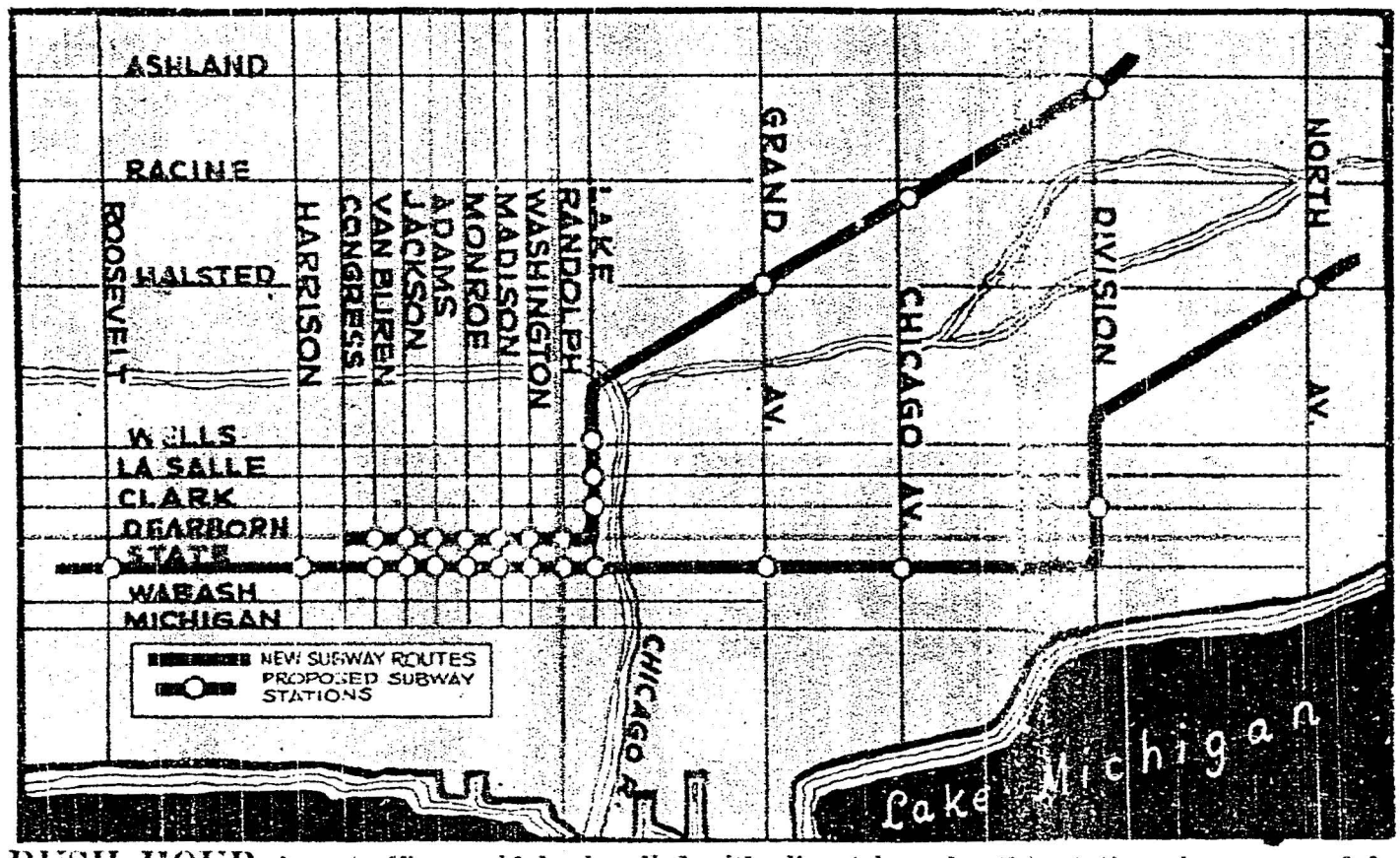
Also 340,000 square feet of terrazzo flooring for stations and platforms; 24,000 square feet of marble; 13,600,000 square feet of painting; 24,000 cubic yards of river dredging; 10,000,000 board feet of lumber for shoring and decking; 1,500 tons of steel shell for river crossings.

### *Types of Labor Required*

The labor distribution is figured as follows: 2,016 skilled workers, 3,429 unskilled workers, 699 intermediate workers and 266 technical and clerical workers.

Among the skilled workers there will be 745 iron workers, 374 carpenters, 156 plumbers, 125 cement finishers, 60 tile setters, 62 mechanics, 62 electricians, 42 sheet metal workers and 186 hoisting engineers.

## Here's Where You Board the Subway




RUSH HOUR loop traffic would be handled with dispatch under this station plan proposed for Chicago's subway, construction of which was ordered into high gear yesterday by President Roosevelt.

# Lehman Orders N. Y. Graft Quiz

NEW YORK, Oct. 13.—(I.N.S.)—After several days study of documents submitted to him in connection with the conduct of the Brooklyn (Kings County) district attorney's office, Governor Lehman announced today that he will supersede District Attorney Geoghan.

Investigation of Goeghan and his aids was begun by New York City Commissioner of Investigation Herlands on orders of Mayor LaGuardia, following charges of corruption and laxity. Governor Lehman entered the case by calling on both Herlands and Geoghan for data.

In announcing that Geoghan would be superseded the governor also added that he had appointed Supreme Court Justice Francis D. McCurn of Syracuse to hold an extraordinary term in Brooklyn and that a special grand jury will be called.

## Oppose Courtney in Horan Appeal

A motion to strike the name of State's Attorney Courtney from the files of the appeal of Bailiff Albert J. Horan, recently held in contempt, was taken under advisement yesterday by the Appellate Court. Horan was held in contempt for refusal to reinstate fifty-five discharged deputy bailiffs. Counsel for Chief Justice Sonsteby and a majority of the other Municipal Court judges argued that Courtney had no authority to enter the case.

# *Pastor Starving Self to Win Youth to Church*

PALMERTON, Pa., Oct. 13.—(I.N.S.)—Jubilant over signs of coming success, the Rev. Lazar Kirichekoff, pastor of St. George's Greek Orthodox Church today entered the eleventh day of a self-imposed fast with a warning that young people of his parish "will return to worship or have an opportunity to attend a funeral."

"The younger generation has strayed away from God," declared the pastor, who began his fast October 2 with the avowed intention of winning back the youthful members of his congregation.

So far he has lost fifteen pounds on a diet of three cups of coffee daily but although weakened by lack of food, Father Kirichekoff expressed determination to carry out his fasting fifteen days or more, if necessary.

# Mob Hangs Fugitive

RUSTON, La., Oct. 13.—(I.N.S.)—A mob today captured and lynched a 19-year-old Negro, W. C. Williams, wanted by authorities for the baseball bat slaying of R. M. Blair.

He was captured in a smoke house near Ruston and dragged to where Blair was clubbed to death. There he was hanged to a tree and riddled with gunshot.

Williams was lynched while sheriff of Bryan, Tiltpen and Neil Thomas parishes led parties in search for him.

# Eccentric Sought as Girl Killer

NEW YORK, Oct. 13.—(I.N.S.)—Swinging back to the theory that Mary Imelda Coyle, 17, was murdered by a sex maniac, police today checked activities of known eccentrics in Larchmont fashionable Westchester County suburb.

A man arrested for questioning because he was driving an old brown sedan, similar to one seen in the neighborhood the night of the girl's murder, was released when he established his identity.

Several hours apart, four girl residents of Mamaroneck told separate stories involving a nude motorist and two would-be kidnapers.

A [illegible] told [illegible] who tried to force her into a car in Mamaroneck. Then [illegible] gave a description of an encounter with an [illegible] automobile driver.

They said that Tuesday night [illegible] Coyle's body was found next morning, a [illegible] automobile came alongside [illegible] as they strolled down a main street and a naked man jumped out. Four times, they said, they fled into [illegible] to escape the man until a police car approached and he drove away.

The girl servant told police two young men in a brown sedan accosted her [illegible] a railroad station. She repulsed them and they tried to force her into their car.

Police broadcast a description of the youths.

## DIRECTORY

**THE WEATHER**

CHICAGO AND VICINITY—Fair and warmer, moderate southwest winds today, tomorrow generally fair and much cooler.


| | | | |
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More comics than before on Pages 28, 29.

*What DO YOU WANT?*
*Phone RANdolph 2121*

# GEORGE VI CRIES 'OI'

BALMORAL, Scotland, Oct. 13. — (I.N.S.) — England's latest and most popular dance, the Lambeth Walk, has royal approval!

King George and Queen Elizabeth danced it last night, with all the knee-slapping and shouted "oi's" which have made the dance famous.

The royal participation in the routine fashioned by songsmiths and dancemasters from the swinging gait and cries of London's cockneys took place at the annual "Gillies' Ball" at Balmoral Castle.

The king and queen slipped into the ballroom during the height of the festivities. Eschewing all formality, the monarchs joined the happy throng of Balmoral estate workers and for a few moments transformed themselves into cockneys, strutting, stamping, slapping and crying "oi" with all the rest.

The king and queen then linked arms with their men and women tenants and performed the more sedate but equally popular "Palais Glide," in which the dancers gracefully dip and sway for a few bars of music, ending each movement with an energetic double stamp. Old Scotch dances, of which the queen is extremely fond, also were on the program.

Best Available Copy



# /oman
# ues 'I Am'

... by Attorney W. Beck, ... Miss Mary Ingham of 3029 ... av., Niles Center who charged ... failed to repay large sums ... advanced him from 1924 to

## ...pts to Serve Writ

... was surrounded by a dozen ... of his followers in the Civic ...bby when Anton Cielowicz, ...iff of the civil branch of the ...office, attempted to serve the

...nd women shouted, tried to ... bailiff from the lobby. Others ...llard's arm, and sought to draw ... In a loud voice, Cielowicz ... summons.

...summons.

... on which the summons was ...d, in part:

...ff (Miss Ingham) has all her ... interested in mysticism and ... arts and sciences.

... time prior to and about the ...6 or 1924 the plaintiff became ...d with the defendant, Guy W. ...who represented himself to be ... in and learned in said myst... ...occult arts and sciences.

...gh the mutual interest of said ...and of said defendant, the said ... obtained the confidence and ...the plaintiff, and the defend... ...ing and taking advantage of ...idence and trust imposed by ...aff in the defendant, requested ... plaintiff and obtained from ...ves of large sums of money

## ...15 Advances

...ll continued that the money ...ained under various pretexts ...ns, such as personal loans for ...xpenses, and that the defend... ...ed the money in various enter... ...d businesses."

...cally in the bill, fifteen ad... ...ere listed, totaling $6,755. The ...of the sum asked in the suit ...sented by interest. Attorney ...d.

...a pandemonium reigned among ...owers. Ballard stood calmly ... brief summons was read. The ...pped him on the shoulder and ...ou have been served," though ...ne followers, and not Ballard, ... actual copy of the summons.

## ...Gold Project

... in the day Beck, Miss Ing... ... a representative of the Better ... Bureau conferred with Assis... ...tate's Attorney C. Vernon ...n.

...said Miss Ingham had given ...and Herbert N. Parkhurst more ...700 to exploit gold in the Lake ...at Inyo City, Cal., through the ...ood, a common law trust.

...pson said the prosecutor's of... ...ld take no action because the ... if any, was outlawed by the ...of limitations.

...Thompson recalled that Ballard ...khurst were indicted twice in ... the complaints of Arthur ... of 629 Gary place, Evanston, ...nd J. Anderson, that they lost ... a similar scheme.

...pson said the indictments were ...ossed last July.

Best Available Copy

# Woman Sues 'I Am' Cult Head

**In a stormy scene in the lobby of the Civic Opera House, Guy W. Ballard, "Accredited Messenger" of the "Great I Am Presence" was served with a summons in a $10,906.55 suit last night.**

The action was filed in Superior Court yesterday by Alfred W. Beck, attorney for Miss Mary Ingham of 8073 Kilbourne av., Niles Center, who charged Ballard failed to repay large sums which she advanced him from 1924 to 1926.

## *Attempts to Serve Writ*

Ballard was surrounded by a dozen or more of his followers in the Civic Opera lobby when Anton Cichowicz, chief bailiff of the civil branch of the sheriff's office, attempted to serve the summons.

Men and women shouted, tried to push the bailiff from the lobby. Others seized Ballard's arm, and sought to draw him away. In a loud voice, Cichowicz read the summons,

read the summons.

The bill on which the summons was issued read, in part:

"Plaintiff (Miss Ingham) has all her life been interested in mysticism and the occult arts and sciences.

"Some time prior to and about the years 1923 or 1924 the plaintiff became acquainted with the defendant, Guy W. Ballard, who represented himself to be interested in and learned in said mysticism and occult arts and sciences.

"Through the mutual interest of said plaintiff and of said defendant, the said defendant obtained the confidence and trust of the plaintiff, and the defendant, abusing and taking advantage of said confidence and trust imposed by the plaintiff in the defendant, requested from the plaintiff and obtained from her advances of large sums of money . . ."

## *Lists 15 Advances*

The bill continued that the money was obtained "under various pretexts and reasons, such as personal loans for current expenses, and that the defendant needed the money in various enterprises and businesses."

Specifically, in the bill fifteen advances were listed, totaling $6,755. The balance of the sum asked in the suit, [illegible], is alleged [illegible] Beck says.

[illegible] of Ballard's followers, his followers Ballard [illegible] calmly while the brief summons was read. The bailiff tapped him on the shoulder and said: "You have been served," through one of the followers, and not Ballard, took the actual copy of the summons.

## *Tell Gold Project*

Earlier in the day Beck, Miss Ingham and a representative of the Better Business Bureau conferred with Assistant State's Attorney [illegible] Vernon Thompson.

They said Miss Ingham had given Ballard and Herbert N. Parkhurst more than $8,000 to exploit gold in the Lake of Gold at Inyo City, Cal., through the Cottonwood, a common law trust.

Thompson said the prosecutor's office could take no action because the offense, if any, was outlawed by the statute of limitations.

Mr. Thompson recalled that Ballard and Parkhurst were indicted twice in 1929 on the complaints of Adeline Beck Uhl of 629 Gary place, Evanston, and Minnie J. Anderson, that they lost $4,500 in a similar scheme.

Thompson said the indictments were nolle prossed last July.

Best Available Copy

# Scorns Hex Put on by the Great I Am

By WILLIAM MILLER

**Your correspondent hereby gives notice to his heirs, assigns, creditors and to all insurance salesmen that he has been hexed and is due shortly to dissolve.**

I've been tipped the black spot, mates.

The Great I Am is after me with his Violet Consuming Ray. And when the Violet Ray consumes it doesn't fool. It has sunk submarines indiscriminately (to the utter confusion of our neutrality) and only Tuesday stopped a flight of Japanese bombers like a brick wall.

I call upon the 99 Ascended Masters of Mt. Teton to witness that I await my doom with Ascended Master resignation.

As Mrs. G. W. Ballard has so aptly said, "We have been in and out of these old bodies so often that death is just like shedding an old overcoat."

If the Retreat on Royal Teton is as wonderful as Mrs. Ballard alleges (she says you can do ANYthing there and the Ascended Masters will not frown), I have no objection to making the ascension.

I will just hand my old overcoat to St. Germain and go ask the Great Divine Director for a new one out

Turn to Page 10

# Hex Didn't Work Before Reporter Wrote His Story

## But He Is Resigned to the Dissolution That Mr. Ballard Predicts

(Continued From Page One)

of the locker. And I should like to ask the Tall Master from Venus how conditions are up there and if that distant orb is troubled with as many vexsome woes as our own moribund cinder.

However, simply for the record, before I leave this old body of mine again (I used to be Chaucer, you know, and before that I was the wolf who took care of Romulus and Remus), I should like to point out that my only offense consisted of affirming the power of the Mighty I Am Presence.

All I said, in writing about the Great I Am in yesterday's paper, was that G. W. Ballard sinks submarines and can put a curse on you if he wants to.

I might add, however, that if I wished to be stubborn I could cloak myself in the Tube of Invincible Light, which, as is well known, is not only bullet-proof but rust-resisting and impervious to butterflies.

"The reporter in Chicago who wrote that vicious falsehood passed on immediately," Mrs. Ballard's husband and fellow Messenger asserted last night over WHK just before he was cut off. I do not know who the unfortunate wretch was, but I trust I shall meet him later on, at the place where he has gone.

One thing I should like cleared up before I go is where Mr. Ballard gets his war dispatches. They are so much more interesting than the routine stuff that vibrates in over the lightning wire. That one about the Japanese bombers, for instance.

"I don't believe I have told you about this," Mr. Ballard whispered to the faithful at yesterday afternoon's class in the Engineers' Auditorium, "but here is a report I got after leaving here Tuesday night, when I reached the hotel—and I tell you when I heard the news I could hardly sleep all night.

"It happened in China.

"There was a town there that was to be bombed and the people prayed. And then a band of ANGELS"—there Mr. Ballard's voice rose and the audience rose right with it—"appeared holding SWORDS! SWORDS OF BLUE FLAME! and they stopped the bombers.

### Knew Flame Was Blue

"Of course," he said, looking again at the dispatch he held in his hand, "the report doesn't say it was a blue flame, but we know it was."

This bombing story got Mr. Ballard off onto aviators, who, he said, because their work takes them into the airy element, deal with Life and Freedom.

"And do you know," he said, "that if an aviator gets up 10,000 feet he is seeing with the All-Seeing, All-Knowing Eye? You've never heard that before, have you? That is because there is a law against anyone revealing it. But one aviator came to us and told us. That is how we know."

Mr. Ballard also revealed that one of the greatest difficulties in his work is "home trouble"—people at home who don't understand or refuse to try to appreciate the Mighty I Am Presence. "I recommend a policy of silence," Mr. Ballard said. "Say nothing, then they can't start an argument.

"But once you have the house to yourself, call upon the Mighty I Am Presence to come forth and CHARGE! CHARGE! CHARGE! that house with such Light that nothing which enters it can be inharmonious."

But [illegible] am I telling you all this for—I'm [illegible] about to dissolve?

Best Available Copy

# THE BALLARD ST. GERMAIN

Dr. Bryan's latest book is now in its second edition

•

AN

*Expose*

of the

## Great "I AM" Hoax

of

## Guy and Edna Ballard

•

A startling exposure of a so-called "Ascended Master," said to be the cultural genius of Bolshevism, whom tens of thousands are worshipping in place of Jesus the Christ.

The author, Dr. Gerald B. Bryan, has in the past several years been accumulating original documents of this cult which have never before been published.

This book proves beyond all question the enormous hoax that is being put over on the American people. Any profit resulting from its sale will be spent in warning the public against the psychic dictatorship of our undemocratic and dangerous cult.

•

Best Available Copy

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Where the Ballards got their "I AM and Sound Ray."
Saint Germain's [illegible] of Father Divine of New York.
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George W. Baird and the reincarnated George Washington.
How much money did St. Germain promise the Ballards?
Edna Loftus Ballard's [illegible] part in the great hoax.
What happened to St Germain's "Very Remarkable Pal"?
The Ballard system of black [illegible] and intimidation
How the Ballard Masters' seances, "I AM" discourses
Psychic dictators [illegible] in democratic America.
Who really wrote the Saint Germain "I AM Discourses"?
A giant Ballardism use of the Sword "Blue Lightning."
How the great "I AM" hoax got [illegible] way in Chicago.
The 1934 grand jury indictment [illegible] Guy Ballard.

etc. etc. etc.

**Only 40c postpaid . . . . and if after reading it you do not think it is the truth about Ballardism, your money will be refunded.**

---

TRUTH RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS
[illegible] S. Western Ave.
Los Angeles [illegible]

Please send me [illegible] copies of Dr. Bryan's book. I enclose $[illegible] coin, stamps, bills, money order, or check.

Name [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

NOTE: [illegible] you may secure THREE [illegible] for the price of ONE DOLLAR.

# *Announcing*

*The*

# BRYAN BROCHURES

An Analysis
of the

# "MIGHTY I AM" MOVEMENT

THE ANSWER to the question: "What are the Facts concerning Ballardism?"

●

## THE AUTHOR

**Dr. Gerald B. Bryan** is well qualified by a life-long study in occultism and mysticism to make this painstaking and accurate research into the Ballard claims and doctrines. His approach is a sympathetic one to the great body of superphysical facts and theories, but he is frankly critical of dictatorial and sensational claims when unsupported by any other evidence save the word of two individuals.

Best Available Copy

# "THE GREAT AMERICAN HOAX"

F[illegible] years ago two Chicago people, then using the names of Mr. and Mrs. Guy [illegible] Ray King, left their home town to campaign for their "Mighty I AM Instruction" which they claimed to have received from their great Ascended Master Saint Germain. Today these individuals—having resumed their original names of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Ballard—are the autocratic rulers over a far-flung Kingdom of "I AM" worshippers embracing, so they claim in their literature and public utterances, "more than one million earnest students." In answer to certain criticisms directed against their methods and teachings they tell their psychologized audiences: "Don't believe us, PROVE us." And with dramatic gesture, they ask: "Can one million people be wrong?"

Accepting this challenge of proving these "Accredited Messengers," Dr. Gerald B. Bryan of Los Angeles, has sought by painstaking and accurate analysis of their books, utterances, and personal records to prove or disprove their spectacular claims. He now has, as a result of this investigation covering a period of three years, information of vital import to all "I AM" followers and their friends. He presents astounding and incontrovertible facts about the originators of this amazing teaching—a teaching which is considered by their students the last word in personal and national salvation, and by others "the most gigantic metaphysical hoax of all time."

## A HUMAN DOCUMENT FROM A BALLARD STUDENT

*Showing how "I AM'ers" are psychologized into accepting the Ballard teachings.*

October 28, 1937.

My dear Dr. Bryan:

Having just finished reading your analysis of the Ballard teaching I cannot refrain from telling you my reaction as a student of the "Mighty I AM" teaching, which came to me at a time when the pathway was dark indeed and decidedly thorn strewn . . . and while many questions presented themselves to my mind, I dared not voice them. We were warned we must "accept" or "reject"—and if we rejected we were in danger of something terrible, and for us to question the "Masters'" wisdom was not permissible.

Since reading that which you have dared bring forth, I see therein exactly the same thoughts which came to my mind, [illegible] **feared** to question [illegible] Years and years of [illegible] earnestly [illegible] that [illegible] was [illegible] face to face with the [illegible] Truth and at times when doubt would [illegible] and questions force their way into consciousness, I would follow their instructions **forcefully.** Again—to my mind—the "Decrees" were foolish and senseless; yet, I obeyed. I dared not do otherwise. To **order** this Sublime Power to do things "my way" was foreign to all other teachings through which I had passed and from which I had gleaned a very great deal—and at times, I doubted. Then there would come the—fear—which they planted in our minds: "Better had they not been born than to criticize the Messengers or the Work," and I would again go forward with the group.

I feel—Oh! how shall I express it—much as though I had stood upon the threshold of a new and beautiful world which I had been invited to enter—and just as I was stepping into the glorious and enchanted world—Somebody said: "Stop! You must not enter. It is not what it seems to be." [illegible] my [illegible] [illegible] it is only [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Dr. Bryan [illegible]

Most sincerely,

M. E.

# IF YOU WANT TO KNOW . . . . . . . .

**. . . the real facts** about Mr. Ballard's Mt. Shasta experiences and his voyage to India, together with certain discrepancies which the Ballards have not been able to explain away, which caused them to insist that their students burn the Bryan brochures without reading them — read **BROCHURE NO. 1,** "The I AM Experiences of Mr. G. W. Ballard."

If you want to know the wide divergence between the Ballard system and that of esoteric Christian philosophy, together with practical and helpful considerations of the Ballard Decrees and Invocations, their "Violet Consuming Flame," the "Mighty I AM Presence," the "Ascension," their condemnation of Astrology, etc., — read **BROCHURE NO. 2,** "The I AM Teachings of Mr. G. W. Ballard."

If you want to know the answer Mr. Ballard has made to the Bryan brochures, together with a scholarly analysis of the destructive "Blue Lightning" of the Ballards, their direful prophecies of cataclysms and other changes, their taboos, prodigies, and fears of astral entities, their teaching that animals are creations of black magicians etc.—read **BROCHURE NO. 3,** "The I AM Doctrines of Mr. G. W. Ballard."

If you want to know the real source of the Ballard writings, to compare for yourself what critics believe is the most startling and convincing evidence of literary piracy in metaphysical history, as shown by accurately recorded selections from the Ballard books, contrasted with almost identical quotations from books written many years previously—read **BROCHURE NO. 4,** "The Source of the Ballard Writings."

If you want to know the almost unbelievable nature and influence of the "Ascended Master Saint Germain," whom the Ballards have placed higher than the Christ, disclosures that are revealed by this "Ascended Master's" own **private,** and until now, unpublished letters, together with a brief history of the real and historical Comte de St. Germain—read **BROCHURE NO. 5,** "The Ballard Saint Germain."

## *The* BRYAN BROCHURES

*have received the sincere, spontaneous stamp of approval from "I AM" students and others over the entire nation. The following comments are but a few of the many hundreds received of similar nature.*

**From Boston:** "We wish to express our thanks to you for the painstaking analysis of the Ballard teachings. You have put into words just what a great many Ballard students have been mulling over in their minds and discussing among themselves."

**From San Francisco:** "You have, unquestionably, made a most masterful analysis of these teachings, and one so damaging in effect that one can hardly wonder that the Ballards left your letter unanswered."

**From Washington:** "We think you are doing a very useful thing in bringing these [illegible] to the attention of the Ballard readers [illegible] [illegible] human opinion and especially [illegible] imagination and psychic experiences."

**From Los Angeles:** "I express my gratitude to you for your fearless work of uncovering the sham and hypocrisy of those who allow themselves to be used as channels to counterfeit the glorious Truth and the Masters of Wisdom."

**From New York:** "Congratulations on the good taste in the way in which you have exposed this false movement which has enslaved so many by feeding them spiritual poison."

**From Chicago:** "We want to express our appreciation of the clear, masterly, and fair way your brochures analyze this so-called teaching."

*From Philadelphia:* "[illegible] a wonderful and [illegible] thing to [illegible]—it is as startling and amazing as the thing you expose. With the added feature that yours is literature—beautiful and flawless English.

Best Available Copy

# FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

*"I AM" students, teachers, and prominent educators have attested to the necessity and value of these brochures.*

**From an "I AM" Student:** "I greatly appreciate your unbiased, sane, and enlightening Brochure No. 1 on the 'I AM Experiences of Mr. G. W. Ballard.' Thank you for sparing me much disillusionment."

**From a Teacher:** "Thank you heartily for Brochure No. 2. Another splendid piece of work. You are to be congratulated—clarity, interest, style, content—page for page it lures you on to the end. The spirit of it is so fine and constructive. More power to you."

**From a Doctor:** "Your Brochure No. 3 is certainly a very laudable attempt to help those sole hungry mortals who are being tempted by the 'frothy sweetmeats and sugared aloes' offered by the Ballards. They are putting out the most high-powered and dangerous New Thought teachings ever broadcast to anyone who has the price."

**From a Lawyer:** "I have gone over the contents of Brochure No. 4 with much interest, and feel that you have presented it in a masterly way. There can be no question that the similarities of the Ballard books and other authors in the excerpts quoted in the brochure are most striking, and the only conclusion that one can draw is that the element of coincidence is impossible."

**From a Ballard Worker:** "This is to acknowledge the receipt of Brochure No. 5, for which I thank you sincerely. If there had been a tiny doubt still lingering in my mind, surely this would have effaced it entirely. I wonder how they dare do such a thing."

**From a Minister:** "You have done a tremendous service, and if your books could be placed into the hands of people when they are just becoming interested in the movement, they would prevent a lot of unnecessary misery which would ultimately come in their final disillusionment."

**From a Newspaperman:** "Dr. Bryan's expose is a thorough one, one of which any newspaperman might be proud."

**From a Publisher:** "All earnest students of the Ballard teachings who wish to know the truth of the unsupported claims of their authors should read these brochures. No one can afford these days to be without the information they contain."

The price of these brochures is but 50c each; the complete set of five brochures $2.00. **But see special offer below.**

## ORDER FORM

TRUTH RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS
456 S. Western Ave.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

**Date**.....

Please send me the following Bryan Brochures, which I have checked:
☐ No. 1 ☐ No. 2 ☐ No. 3 ☐ No. 4 ☐ No. 5 @ 50c each, postpaid.
☐ I am taking advantage of your special offer by sending herewith the names and addresses of five "I AM" students, which will entitle me to the **complete set of five brochures for the special price of $1.75** instead of the regular $2.00 price.

Enclosed is $.....(Money, Check, Money Order, Stamps).

Name.....

Address.....

City..... State.....

47-1198

GUY W. BALLARD

Inspector LADD: This case is presently delinquent, having been referred to your office for investigation by the United States Attorney on April 25, 1937. It has not received any attention to date.

SAC J. H. HANSON: Other more urgent and delinquent investigations have been given preference to this particular case, but inasmuch as it has been possible to assign it just recently, I will make efforts to have a report submitted promptly.

Inspection report,
Los Angeles Office.
Inspector D. M. LADD,
August 1937.

47-12[illegible]

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. 43 Rep. L. A. FILE NO. 47-1195-

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles | 9-29-37 | 8-16-37 | W. M. Bott RS |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| GUY W. BALLARD, alias Dick Gilbert. | Impersonation. |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Dr. Gerald B. Bryan, Los Angeles, Calif., complained that Ballard, who claims to be a "Messenger of the Ascended Masters", represented himself as having been "sent on Government business", and having aided the U. S. Secret Service capture seven communists. U. S. Attorney, Los Angeles, declines prosecution.

C.

DETAILS: AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

This investigation is predicated upon a letter from the U. S. Attorney at Los Angeles, California, dated April 22, 1937, advising that the Attorney General had referred the complaint of GERALD B. BRYAN, relative to activities of one GUY W. BALLARD, to the U. S. Attorney's office for the purpose of having an investigation conducted by the Los Angeles Field Division.

The records of the U. S. Attorney's office at Los Angeles disclose that DR. GERALD B. BRYAN, 10952 Weyburn Avenue, Los Angeles, addressed a letter to the Attorney General complaining that GUY W. BALLARD, alias DICK GILBERT, has been collecting large sums of money throughout the United States by claiming to be a "Messenger of the Ascended Masters", and possessor of occult powers; that among the [illegible] claims, Ballard has represented himself as having been sent on Government

| APPROVED AND FORWARDED | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES | |
|---|---|---|---|
| J. H. Hanson | | 47-12844-2 | OCT 5 1937 |

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6 Bureau
1 U. S. Attorney, Los Angeles
2 Los Angeles

OCT 4 1937

cc Mr. Nathan 10/6/37

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

business" to do certain work for the United States Government, and that he has helped the "Secret Service Departments of America" in running down communists both in this country and abroad.

Agent contacted Dr. Bryan by telephone and was advised that he does not possess any specific information concerning subject's alleged impersonation; that subject, in his books and public lectures, has repeatedly referred to the time when he was "sent on Government business" to a little town situated at the foot of Mount Shasta, California, during 1930; that informant does not know the nature of this "Government business" to which subject has referred, and that again subject has frequently mentioned the fact, both in his writings and in his public addresses, that he was of material assistance to the U. S. Government in apprehending seven of the principal communistic leaders in the United States. Dr. Bryan could not elaborate upon the statements of subject, but he stated that he is of the opinion that subject is a fake and is attempting to swindle the American public out of money as a result of his preposterous claims to be in communication with the Infinite.

Dr. Bryan stated that he has known subject intimately for years, and furnished the following description of subject, who is reported to be in the vicinity of San Francisco, California, at the present time:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | GUY W. BALLARD, with alias. |
| Age | 60 years |
| Height | 5' 9" |
| Weight | 155 lbs. |
| Build | Slender |
| Complexion | Florid |
| Hair | Grey |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Nose | Big |
| Marital status | Married. |

Agent conferred with Assistant U. S. Attorney Hal Hughes, Los Angeles, who stated that in view of the fact that complainant has failed to furnish information indicating that an offense has been committed by subject, prosecution is unwarranted, and that pendant matter would be referred to the Post Office Department.

CLOSED.

903 Pacific Commerce Bldg.
437 South Hill Street
Los Angeles, California
May 5, 1937

Mr. Peirson M. Hall
United States Attorney
Los Angeles, California

Re: GUY W. BALLARD
Impersonation
L. A. File #47-1195

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of April 22, 1937, with reference to the complaint of Gerald B. Bryan relative to the activities of the above-mentioned individual, which might constitute a violation of the Federal Impersonation Statute, and advising that the papers with reference to this complaint are available for the inspection of an Agent of this office.

Please be advised that an Agent of this office will call upon you in connection with this matter at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

J. E. HANSON
Special Agent in Charge

EPE/EL
cc/ Bureau

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&
INDEXED

47-12844-1

MAY 10 1937 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1394631-0

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Page 39 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 40 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 41 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 42 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 43 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 53 ~ b6; b7C;

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Page 42 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 43 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 53 ~ b6; b7C;

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"I AM" ONI

Ref: ONI card, Feb. 12, 1942, same subject.

Further investigation reveals that Subject organization, sometimes known as the PURPLE CULT, is definitely non-cooperative with reference to the present war, and is instructing its membership to refrain from buying Defense Bonds. It is possible that a membership list might be obtained from Mrs. D.D. Fowler, 1808 24th Ave., Seattle, Washington, who is reported to be reliable.

NDs 11, 13 cognizant.

CONFIDENTIAL

To: 12ND, FBI
February 13, 1942

B-7-F(M)

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8 BTD/mg ON 6/28/83 Navy letter 4/11/83

62-56722-67

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62-56722-67

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
1 FEB 16 1942
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

8 MAR 14 1942

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This Case Originated at SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA File No. 65-617

| Report Made at | Date | Period | Report Made By |
|---|---|---|---|
| SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA | 2/17/42 | 2/11/42 | LBA LYNDON B. ALLEN wsp |

| Title | Character of Case |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT | INTERNAL SECURITY - C |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

PAUL STICKELL received mail at 1437 Torrence Street for period of two years ending about one and one-half years ago. He has received mail at that address as late as two months ago, but this mail has been remailed to an address in Los Angeles. 1437 Torrence Street is owned and resided in by Mrs. THEODORE R. SMITH, who several months ago purchased residence at 1360 Torrence as "I AM" CULT Sanctuary. Five persons resided at 1360 Torrence but recently left.

- RUC

DETAILS:

This investigation is predicated upon a teletype request from San Francisco Office to obtain all possible information concerning PAUL HARTMAN STICKELL, 1437 Torrence Street, San Diego, inasmuch as he was in contact with members of the "I AM" CULT under surveillance by the El Paso Office at Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The San Diego City Directory revealed that THEODORE RUSSELL SMITH (wife NELLIE G) resides at and owns the residence at 1437 Torrence Street. NO PAUL HARTMAN STICKELL was listed.

| Approved and Forwarded | Do Not Write in These Spaces |
|---|---|
| SAC | 62- 56722-68 RECORDED & INDEXED |

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2 - San Diego

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FEB 1942

EX-10

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OCT 26 1964 96

Mrs. MAURINE WEAVER, Merchant's Central Credit Association, advised that THEODORE RUSSELL SMITH had been known to their files since 1929. SMITH has resided at 1437 Torrence since 1931, and is engaged in a locksmith business at 3925 Fifth Avenue. In 1929 SMITH married Mrs. NELLIE G. EDGAR, widow of MILTON A. EDGAR, who died in 1925. In 1938 SMITH was thirty-eight years of age, and his wife is believed to be considerably older.

SMITH advised the Credit Association in 1939 that he had been separated from his wife for a period of two years, but Mrs. SMITH subsequent to that date advised that there had been no separation between herself and her husband. Mrs. SMITH, as Mrs. EDGAR, has been known to their files since 1923, and is known to be a wealthy woman. Mrs. WEAVER further advised that SMITH had been chauffeur for Mrs. SMITH at the time that her husband, Mr. EDGAR, was living.

Mr. G. R. SPRINGS, Mail Carrier, Hillcrest Sub-Station, San Diego Post Office, advised that THEODORE SMITH had resided at 1437 Torrence for many years and that he had married his present wife, who is wealthy, for whom he at one time was a chauffeur.

According to Mr. SPRINGS, he recalled delivering mail to 1437 Torrence Street addressed to a PAUL STICKELL for a period of approximately two years ending about one and one-half years ago. He did not recall seeing STICKELL at any time. As recently as twomonths ago, Mr. SPRINGS has delivered mail addressed to PAUL STICKELL at that address, but this has been redirected by Mrs. SMITH to an address in Los Angeles.

Mr. SPRINGS advised that Mrs. SMITH had been connected with the "I AM" movement for a long time, and that within the last year she had purchased the residence at 1360 Torrence as an "I AM" Sanctuary. The following people were known to reside there:

Miss HORTENSIA ROCK - sister to Mrs. SMITH
Left recently, forwarding address, Box 355, Gunnison, Colorado.

Miss MILDRED ROCK - sister to Mrs. SMITH
Left recently, forwarding address, Box 355, Gunnison, Colorado.

Mr. GEORGE KERR and wife, CAROLINA
Left February 6, 1942, forwarding address,
General Delivery, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mrs. LOUISE LANE
Left February 6, 1942, forwarding address,
Box 355, Gunnison, Colorado.

Mr. SPRINGS added that the Filipino who cared for the residence had told him that mettings were held and that on occasions seven or eight hundred dollars were taken in.

According to Mr. SPRINGS, Mr. and Mrs. SMITH have not lived together as man and wife for several years, inasmuch as Mr. SMITH lives mostly in a trailer in the yard. He added that Mr. SMITH apparently was dissatisfied immediately after his marriage inasmuch as he was practically a "kept man". It was at this time of dissatisfaction that Mr. SMITH had entered into the Locksmith business, referred to in the Credit Report hereinbefore set out. It was Mr. SPRINGS belief that Mr. SMITH had recently been employed by some aircraft company.

Mrs. SMITH presently is having her mail forwarded to the Allen Hotel, Gunnison, Colorado, and according to Mr. SPRINGS, stated that she would be at that address for an indefinite period.

Mr. SPRINGS recalled that the Filipino caretaker a few days ago had referred to a _____ FERGUSON as being connected with the "I AM" movement.

Mrs. E. LETA HOSKINS, 4111 Stephens Street, having previously furnished information to this office concering the "I AM" movement was contacted, and she advised that she had never heard the name PAUL STICKELL. However, she was familiar with the name Mrs. THEODORE SMITH, and advised that this person had about two years ago inherited a home on Torrence Street, which she had turned into an "I AM" sanctuary.

Mrs. HOSKINS could furnish no further information pertinent to this report, but she advised that she was leader of the "Ancient Active Masonry", an organization which consisted of thirty-three members; also that she was familiar

with hypnotism, and astrology, and other sciences and cults. Her friends were acquainted with the principles of the "I AM" movement, and she suggested that the writer contact Mrs. DELTA HEWETT, Winters Apartments, 12th and B Streets, whose sister VELMA attended an "I AM" meeting about three weeks ago. She added that Mrs. HEWETT was completely reliable.

Mrs. HOSKINS further advised that up until about two years ago the headquarters of the "I AM" movement had been at the corner of Grape and Fourth Streets, which is now the Fourth Avenue Hospital.

No further investigation is to be conducted by this office unless deemed necessary by the office of origin, and this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This Case Originated at SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA File No. 65-617

| Report Made at | Date | Period | Report Made By |
|---|---|---|---|
| SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA | 2/17/42 | 2/11/42 | LYNDON B. ALLEN wsp LBA |

| Title | Character of Case |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT | INTERNAL SECURITY - C |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

PAUL STICKELL received mail at 1437 Torrence Street for period of two years ending about one and one-half years ago. He has received mail at that address as late as two months ago, but this mail has been remailed to an address in Los Angeles. 1437 Torrence Street is owned and resided in by Mrs. THEODORE R. SMITH, who several months ago purchased residence at 1360 Torrence as "I AM" CULT Sanctuary. Five persons resided at 1360 Torrence but recently left.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10/19/82 BY SP8 SD/MB

DETAILS:

This investigation is predicated upon a teletype request from San Francisco office to obtain all possible information concerning PAUL HARTMAN STICKELL, 1437 Torrence Street, San Diego, inasmuch as he was in contact with members of the "I AM" CULT under surveillance by the El Paso Office at Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The San Diego City Directory revealed that THEODORE RUSSELL SMITH (wife NELLIE G) resides at and owns the residence at 1437 Torrence Street. NO PAUL HARTMAN STICKELL was listed.

| Approved and Forwarded SAC | Do Not Write in These Spaces | | | |
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2 - San Diego

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

DML:mm
February 10, 1942
Received: 6:20 PM
Transcribed: 7:15 PM

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Candy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: "I AM"
El Paso and Santa Fe

Special Agent Myers telephonically reported the following developments in the captioned matter. He stated that Agent Ferris has been spending all of his time on this case in the vicinity of Santa Fe and has advised that Santa Fe is now completely filled with "I Am" people; that they have rented every possible vacancy in the way of furnished apartments and homes; that they have just leased an entire hotel at Gunnerson, Colorado; that one Paul Steckell has gone from Santa Fe to Gunnerson to perfect arrangements of the organization's occupancy of the hotel. Mr. Myers stated that the remaining and higher representatives of the organization at Santa Fe are negotiating with Ferris' informant [redacted]

b7D

[redacted]

Mr. Myers advised that everyone in Santa Fe and a number of people in Los Angeles are quite excited over the matter specifically in connection with the bombing on February 12th. Mr. Myers had instructed Agent Ferris to attempt to determine the nature of the information forwarded to the woman in Los Angeles to the effect that the bombing was scheduled for February 12th. Mr. Ferris has stated that he has received information to the effect that immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mrs. Ballard is alleged to have remarked, "Now my work in Los Angeles is done." Mr. Myers stated that the present situation is that the members of the outfit are being kept under surveillance and that Ferris desired him to contact the Bureau regarding the installation of a technical surveillance. Mr. Myers was of the opinion, however, that a technical surveillance would be of no particular value at this time.

62-56722-69
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
10 FEB 24 1942

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EX-19
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FEB 23 1942 RECD

ACTION TAKEN:

I told Mr. Myers if in the future he felt that a technical surveillance would be desirable he should notify us and we would take it up with the Department.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

DML:WGR
Call: 4:15 P.M.
Transcribed: 6:00 P.M.

February 12, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

RE: "I AM CULT"

SAC Nicholson of the Denver Office telephonically contacted me, referring to his conversation with Supervisor Kramer of this division last night regarding the "I Am Cult". Mr. Nicholson mentioned the fact that it was thought advisable, when he talked to Mr. Kramer, to forget about the matter regarding Mrs. Ballard so far as the Denver Office is concerned inasmuch as she had told them everything and it was thought the rumor was without foundation as far as the officers of the cult are concerned.

Mr. Nicholson advised that he had just received a call from the sheriff's office at Boulder, Colorado, at which time it was stated that there are at least fifteen members of this cult at Boulder. Among them are Don Ballard, Mrs. Ballard's son; David Bayre, and Fred Liebhardt. At least two of these fifteen individuals have strong German accents. These individuals came to Boulder with four trucks, all kinds of equipment such as tools, lumber, jacks, tires, quite a storage of oil and gasoline, a radio receiving set and other similar materials. It is not known why these people are at Boulder although they are going to a point about fifteen miles up the canyon from Boulder. Mr. Nicholson stated everything indicates that these people have property to go into mining operations; however, they have about 1,000 rounds of 30-30 caliber ammunition and some 45 caliber ammunition. It is not known at the present time how many rifles and pistols they have. These people put about twelve or fourteen tires and some other material in a warehouse at Boulder. The warehouseman remarked to one of them, "Under the present system, I don't know whether you can get these tires back when you want them or not". One of the individuals then threatened the warehouseman, saying, "We'll get the tires back if we have to use a gun to get them".

Mr. Nicholson stated that the townspeople are quite upset about the members of this cult being in Boulder and the postmaster has also called the Denver Office asking that the FBI do something about the matter. The people are upset over the fact that the members of this cult have moved in with all of this equipment and the further fact that a resident of Boulder had been threatened. I pointed out to Mr. Nicholson that with reference to the tires there is no violation over which the FBI has jurisdiction and the fact that the warehouseman was threatened would be a matter for the local police to handle.

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Mr. Nicholson inquired as to whether the Bureau wanted the Denver office to act on the basis of the possibility that these individuals are aliens in the possession of contraband, whether the cult members should be interviewed or what action should be taken. I pointed out to Mr. Nicholson that the Bureau can not act on any possibility of that kind, that if we are going to act we must know that they are aliens. Mr. Nicholson remarked that they only know the identity of three of these individuals, that it would be necessary to interview the cult members to ascertain their identity. I pointed out to Mr. Nicholson that if these individuals are citizens that even though they do have ammunition in their possession there is nothing we can do about it. Mr. Nicholson inquired as to whether there was something which could be used as a basis for making some inquiry. In response to my inquiry, he stated that most of these people came out of the Los Angeles area. I told him that checks should be made in Los Angeles to find out if these people are aliens and if they are aliens the matter should be discussed with the U. S. Attorney. He then pointed out that they only have the names of three of these persons and it is believed that the son of Mrs. Ballard is a citizen. I pointed out to Mr. Nicholson that he has no basis to make inquiries inasmuch as he has no indication that these people are aliens. I suggested to him that under the circumstances he discuss with the U. S. Attorney what information he has to see if the U. S. Attorney wants to authorize executive search warrants as outlined in the Bureau bulletin, that if executive search warrants can be obtained then it will be all right for him, Nicholson, to check on these people while serving the warrants, that if he finds some of them are aliens in possession of contraband he can take them into custody under the C.D. program.

Mr. Nicholson inquired as to whether there was any substantiation to the rumor about the so-called sabotage, that is the rumor that these people were supposed to be controlled by the Communist Party and that they were going to sabotage the transportation systems east and west. I told him that I had seen no confirmation although we had received rumors to that effect. Mr. Nicholson stated that he was just interested in this rumor in so far as handling it as an ordinary case or whether they should even touch it inasmuch as the cult is involved. I told Mr. Nicholson that when there is nothing to back up a rumor that the people there have started to circulate concerning sabotage, there are no grounds on which we can act, and it is not known whether these people are aliens. I pointed out to Mr. Nicholson he should not interest himself in the cult, that the only information he should try to obtain is whether these individuals are aliens and if so whether they have contraband in their possession.

Mr. Nicholson stated that he will contact the U. S. Attorney and if the U. S. Attorney authorizes executive search warrants, the warrants will be served and it will be determined if these individuals are aliens; and if they are aliens, whether they have contraband in their possession. I told Mr. Nicholson that this should be handled most discreetly and the Bureau should be advised of all developments.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
This case originated at EL PASO, TEXAS File No. 100-1541

| Report made at | Date when made: | Period for which made | Report made by |
|---|---|---|---|
| EL PASO, TEXAS | 2/21/42 | 2/6-11, 14, 15, 19/42 | E. P. FERRIS nld |

| Title | Character of case |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: "I AM" CULT, a religious organization, reported by informants to be alleged Communist front. Mass migration of Cult from Los Angeles to Santa Fe, N. M., and Gunnison, Colo., noted. Reported members to sabotage railroad facilities in West Coast area. Rumor circulated West Coast to be bombed on 2/12/42, a Japanese holiday. Mrs. EDNA BALLARD, head of Cult, interviewed by Denver Office. Members deny knowledge of bombing rumor. PAUL H. STICKELL, an official of Cult, reported as prominent Chicago attorney. Cult doctrine alleged as non-resistance to Japs.

- P -

DETAILS:

AT SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The investigation in this case is predicated upon information received from Confidential Informant "A", who advised that [redacted] the Subject Cult, had informed her that the Cult, a Communist organization, was moving from Los Angeles, California, to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Gunnison, Colorado, and that at the present time there were approximately fifty members of this Cult presently in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Confidential Informant "A" continued that

b7D

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62-56722-7

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FEB 26 1942

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1 - OKI, New Orleans
1 - San Antonio (infm.)
2 - El Paso

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[redacted] had stated that the Communist Party had requested the Cult to move from the West Coast inasmuch as, within the next two weeks, the Communists have organized for the purpose of taking command of all railroads and blocking all highways with their personally owned automobiles in order to stop all travel communications along the West Coast and prevent the transportation of troops. Confidential Informant "A" further advised that one of the Cult's teachings was to allow the Japanese to take the Philippines as these Islands and Japan itself would sink from a hurricaneand that it was therefore useless for America to fight the Japs as it would just be a waste of our manpower. The Bureau was telephonically advised of these facts. b7D

On February 8, 1942, Confidential Informant "B" advised that in October or November, 1941, one PAUL H. STICKELL had come to Closson's Garage in Santa Fe, New Mexico, that he had been previously visiting the garage, and that, upon being asked if he worked for the government, as he would always have a new battery installed rather than have one recharged, STICKELL stated "I do not work for this government." Informant "B" further advised that STICKELL was driving a 1940 Buick Coupe, 1942 California license 73T324, that he had been seen frequently contacting the members of the "I AM" Cult and that he had advised that on February 9 he was leaving for the North.

On February 10, 1942, the San Francisco Office was advised concerning the above activities of STICKELL and was requested to ascertain his reputation and activities in that district.

On February 10, 1942, a teletype was received from the San Francisco Office advising that STICKELL's California license plates were issued to him at 1437 Torrance Street, San Diego, and that his operator license number was H807901, issued to one PAUL HARTMAN STICKELL, and that STICKELL is described as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Height | 5'6" |
| Weight | 206 |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Hair | Brown |
| Marital status | Married |

The teletype also advised that the San Francisco files reflected that one PAUL STICKELL was a member of the Executive Committee of "Friends of New Germany" in Milwaukee in 1934.

On February 9, 1942, a teletype was received from the Los Angeles Field Division advising that the wife of DICK ABBIE, 59 Scott

Street, San Francisco, had received a letter from the "I AM" headquarters informing her that the entire Pacific Coast was to be bombed on February 12, 1942; that San Francisco Office was unable to obtain information from ABDIE and suggested that officers of the Cult be investigated for possible violation of the Sedition Act and to ascertain who was responsible for the bombing report.

With further reference to STICKELL, it is to be observed from the teletype of the San Francisco Office dated February 10, 1942, that STICKELL was a member of the Executive Committee of the "Friends of New Germany" in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1934, and that he had in his possession a Wisconsin operator's license in 1936; also, that this information was available in the report of Special Agent C. B. HOWARD, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, dated January 4, 1941, entitled "EUGENE JOHANNES BUERK, ESPIONAGE - G." A description set out in reference teletype was obtained by the San Francisco Field Division presumably from the State Motor Vehicle Bureau listing the color of hair of STICKELL as brown. However, Informant "B" advised that STICKELL's hair was white and wavy, and, therefore, these two do not appear to be identical.

On February 11, 1942, it was ascertained from Confidential Informant "C" that Mrs. EDNA BALLARD, the head of the Cult, and probably her son, DONALD BALLARD, had left Santa Fe and had proceeded to the Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, Colorado, and that they were probably registered at that hotel under the name of "MUNDY." Informant "C" further stated that Mrs. BALLARD and PAUL H. STICKELL were receiving mail from one F. LIEBHARDT, who, it was believed, is a mail drop for said persons.

The Denver Field Division was advised of the whereabouts of Mrs. BALLARD and was requested upon Bureau instructions to interview her for what information she would give regarding the reported bombings of the Pacific Coast on February 12, 1942.

On February 16, 1942, a letter was received from the Denver Field Division dated February 13, 1942, advising that investigation at Denver revealed that DON BALLARD had registered at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver under that name on February 6, 1942, and had checked out on February 8, 1942, and that a Mrs. G. W. BALLARD, together with a Mrs. B. O. MUNDY, had also registered at the hotel on February 6, 1942.

Mrs. BALLARD was interviewed, and she stated that she is the Secretary of the organization and that Mrs. MUNDY is her personal secretary and is also a member of the organization. In the initial stages of the interview she was reluctant to answer questions, advising that she had been subjected to so much criticism and perse-

cution by the enemies of the "I AM" Cult that she did not care to answer any questions. According to this letter, Mrs. BALLARD advised that the decrees of the "I AM" Cult have always condemned Communism and that they have always fought Communism and have endeavored over a period of some nine years to make the American public conscious of the evils of Communism in this country.

Mrs. BALLARD stated that there was no organization and that persons who participate in it are merely students who come freely and voluntarily to meetings which are held and which are open to any persons who care to come, regardless of race, creed or color. At the meetings the students are instructed in the proper manner of living so that they will be rewarded in the life to come.

Mrs. BALLARD further advised that the rumor that the "I AM" Cult was planning or contemplating sabotage is the creation of some enemy of the Cult and has absolutely no foundation in fact. She stated that she was unable to give even an indication of who might be responsible for starting such a rumor as the reported bombing of the Pacific Coast. She denied ever having written a letter to one Mrs. DICK ABDIE, stating that the only person authorized to correspond in behalf of the Cult was Mrs. MUNDY, that the "I AM" Cult has no stationery with printed letterhead and that the only stationery which has been used in the past several months was that of the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, where she and Mrs. MUNDY resided and which they considered as headquarters.

The Denver letter further advised that Mrs. B. O. MUNDY was also interviewed and that she related substantially the same as Mrs. BALLARD.

Mrs. DONNA LUCAS, 315 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico, upon interview, advised that she had never heard of any such bombing rumor and gave the following signed statement, which is being retained in the file of the El Paso Field Division:

> "I have absolutely no knowledge of reports of bombings on the West Coast nor do I know where such reports originated. I did not hear any such report. The reason I came to Santa Fe is because I love the city and its people. Santa Fe is a cultural center and a wonderful place for our children and young people to continue their education and home activities. Los Angeles is known to be a combat zone therefore the parents of our resident children were concerned about their children being so far from home under such uncertain conditions - the simple thing to take the children to a greater place of safety.
>
> /s/ Donna Lucas
> Feb 11 - 1942 "

Mrs. GENEVIEVE CHAVEZ, wife of Judge DAVID CHAVEZ and reported head of the organization at Santa Fe, was interviewed, and she likewise denied any knowledge of the bombing rumor nor could she give any indication as to who might have circulated the rumor. Mrs. CHAVEZ further advised that she doubted that the Cult would stay in Santa Fe and that it would probably make its headquarters at Denver, where Mrs. BALLARD is presently residing.

Mr. DATUS MYERS was contacted, and he advised that he knew nothing concerning the reported bombings of the Pacific Coast and had no idea who might have circulated such a rumor. MYERS stated that he did hear, however, from some of the members as they arrived in Santa Fe that Communists had advised them to leave California as the railroads and all the highways were to be blocked to frustrate any movement of troops.

MYERS further stated that the organization now numbers approximately 3,000,000 members and that there is in the process of organization 3,000,000 more members. MYERS stated that anyone who was opposed to the "I AM" movement or who did anything against them would be dealt with by the "Masters," explaining that the Masters meant the ascended persons of St. GERMAIN and Mr. BALLARD. He stated that we need not worry about the Japanese for all the Japanese Islands are going to sink into the ocean and that will be the end of the war, inferring that such information had come to him from the head of the organization; that we had nothing more to fear from the Communists since they (the "I AM's) have them under control and the Communists could no longer do anything in the way of revolutionizing.

When questioned concerning Mr. STICKELL, MYERS advised that STICKELL is next in line to Mrs. BALLARD; that he was an attorney in Chicago before he joined the "I AM's" and had an honorable discharge from the Army; that if anything ever happened to Mrs. BALLARD, STICKELL would be the head of the organization.

MYERS further advised that all of the activities of the "I AM" Cult are directed by Mrs. BALLARD, who is in turn directed by the Ascended Masters: St. GERMAIN and Mr. BALLARD.

According to the "Encyclopaedia Britannica," nothing is definitely known concerning St. GERMAIN's parentage and birthplace. However, the common version is that he was a Portuguese Jew. He was a musical composer and a capable violinist. He pretended to have the secret for removing flaws from diamonds and to be able to transmute metals. The most remarkable of his professed discoveries was a liquid which would prolong life and by which he asserted he had himself lived 2,000 years. St. GERMAIN was mentioned in a letter

of HORACE WALPOLE's as being in London about 1743 and being arrested there as a Jacobite spy, and released. He appears to have resided in London for one or two years. He was as St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1762 and is asserted to have played an important part in connection with a conspiracy against Emperor PETER III and a plot which placed CATHERINE the Second upon the Russian throne.

From the "Encyclopedia Americana" the following information concerning St. GERMAIN is summarized: Substantially the same background as set out above from the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" is given. It is further stated that FREDERICK the Great, having asked VOLTAIRE for some particulars respecting him, was told that he was a man who never dies and who knows everything. He passed the last years of his life at the court of Prince HESSE-CASSEL and is supposed to have been employed during the greater part of his life as a spy at the courts at which he resided.

Confidential Informant "A" advised that the "I AM's" were openly seen with KATHERINE GAY and ANN WEBSTER, known Communists; that [redacted] had told her that immediately after Pearl Harbor had been bombed, Mrs. BALLARD had stated: "My work in California is done." b7D

Informant "A" continued that she is certain that this organization is a Communist front since one of the reasons why she [redacted] "I AM's." Informant "A" continued that [redacted] had stated that it was useless for America to fight the Japs as it would be a waste of our blood and manpower since the Philippine Islands and Japan would sink from a hurricane.

Informant "A" advised that [redacted]

Confidential Informant [redacted] was contacted, and he advised that he had been solicited for membership in the organization by several members and that he was in an ideal position to obtain inside information as to the purposes behind the movement; that from what he had heard concerning the Cult, only the very top few of its members know the real background of it and that the so-called students are purely religious followers.

[redacted] further advised that in his opinion the Cult was another Communist front, as they seemed to be very familiar with Communist activities.

[redacted] advised that a new leader named IRENE HUDSON was to arrive in the community from somewhere in the Middle West and that upon her arrival he would be admitted to membership in the organization. One of the things the organizers had told him was that the Bible had made a lot of promises which had not been fulfilled but which would be in the very near future; they intimated that one of these promises was that the yellow race will rule the world. b7D

On February 15, 1942, CHARLES F. HOFSTETTER, whose home address is 7021 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles, California, advised that his mother, OLGA HOFSTETTER, who had been referred to by Mrs. BALLARD as the "Santa Claus" of the "I AM" movement, had left California on two days' notice, selling her home and furniture, to come to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and that his mother has been a member of the organization for approximately two years, during which time she has contributed approximately $35,000.

When questioned concerning the alleged bombing rumor, HOFSTETTER advised that no such rumor had circulated so far as his knowledge was concerned, but that his mother was so engrossed with the movement that she had told him that, a few days after conviction of Mrs. BALLARD in California for mail fraud, Mrs. BALLARD had called a meeting of a very small group of the members and had advised them to leave California, as the Pacific Coast was going to sink because God was mad because of her persecution by the government. HOFSTETTER referred to the prosecution of Mrs. BALLARD for mail fraud.

HOFSTETTER advised that he and his father had come to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in an effort to get his mother to return to Los Angeles but thus far had been unable to so persuade her.

HOFSTETTER advised that he would inform the Los Angeles Field Division upon his return to Los Angeles of any further information which came to his attention.

From a confidential source literature of the organization was obtained and is being retained in the file of the El Paso Field Division.

## UNDEVELOPED LEADS

### WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will check the War Department records for information concerning the enlistment and discharge of PAUL H. STICKELL.

### CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Will in the vicinity of 1620 East 84th Place ascertain the background and reputation of PAUL H. STICKELL. It is to be noted in this connection that the above address is the permanent address of STICKELL.

### SAN FRANCISCO, SAN DIEGO, LOS ANGELES, DENVER and EL PASO FIELD DIVISIONS

Will continue appropriate investigation concerning any subversive activities of the instant organization.

- P E N D I N G -

Confidential Informant "A" is [redacted] b7D

Confidential Informant "B" is [redacted]

Confidential Informant "C" is [redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
This case originated at EL PASO, TEXAS File No. 100-1541

| Report made at | Date when made | Period for which made | Report made by |
|---|---|---|---|
| EL PASO, TEXAS | 2/21/42 | 2/6-11, 14, 15, 19/42 | E. P. FERRIS nld |

| Title | Character of case |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: "I AM" CULT, a religious organization, reported by informants to be alleged Communist front. Mass migration of Cult from Los Angeles to Santa Fe, N. M., and Gunnison, Colo., noted. Reported members to sabotage railroad facilities in West Coast area. Rumor circulated West Coast to be bombed on 2/12/42, a Japanese holiday. Mrs. EDNA BALLARD, head of Cult, interviewed by Denver Office. Members deny knowledge of bombing rumor. PAUL H. STICKELL, an official of Cult, reported as prominent Chicago attorney. Cult doctrine alleged as non-resistance to Japs.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/25/85 BY

\- P -

DETAILS: AT SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The investigation in this case is predicated upon information received from Confidential Informant "A", who advised that [redacted] the Subject Cult, had informed her that the Cult, a Communist organization, was moving from Los Angeles, California, to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Gunnison, Colorado, and that at the present time there were approximately fifty members of this Cult presently in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Confidential Informant "A" continued that b7D

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT DENVER, COLORADO

FILE NO. 100-1436

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| DENVER, COLORADO | 2-25-42 | 2-13,15-42 | E. F. KIEFFER (A) sk |

TITLE: FRED LIEBHARDT; DONALD BALLARD; DAVID SAYRE

CHARACTER OF CASE: INTERNAL SECURITY
ALIEN ENEMY CONTROL

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Complaints received that subjects, members of the "I Am" Cult, were in possession of firearms, ammunition, short wave sets, and other property at Boulder, Colorado, and that possibly they were enemy aliens. Investigation fails to disclose subjects have firearms and that they are enemy aliens. USA, Denver, declined to issue search warrant.

- C -

DETAILS:

This investigation is predicated upon a telephone call received February 12, 1942, from Sheriff GEORGE A. RICHART, Boulder, Colorado, by Special Agent J. S. JOHNSON, advising that FRED LIEBHARDT, DONALD BALLARD and DAVID SAYRE, and about twelve other persons who were members of the "I Am" Cult, had come into the town of Boulder with four trucks, all kinds of tools, lumber, bricks, tires, oil, gasoline, grease, radio receiving set, about 1000 rounds of 30-30 ammunition and some .45 ammunition. Sheriff RICHART stated that they were very secretive and that some of these persons had German names and therefore, he was of the opinion they might be enemy aliens in possession of contraband property. Sheriff RICHART further stated that these persons were apparently

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operating under the name of the NEVADA ENGINEERING COMPANY.

On the same date Mr. PERCY B. PADDOCK, Postmaster, Boulder, Colorado, telephonically contacted this office and advised that a number of California trucks had come into town and taken a warehouse, put in gasoline, supplies, etc. Mr. PADDOCK also reported that there were some Germans in the crowd and that the residents of Boulder were becoming very suspicious about their plans inasmuch as no one could seem to find out anything about them.

On February 12, 1942, Mr. FRED C. LIEBHARDT, office, 611 - 16th St., Denver, Colorado; temporary residence, LaFonda Hotel, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the Cosmopolitan Hotel, Denver, Colorado, called at this office and spoke to Special Agent J. S. JOHNSON. Mr. LIEBHARDT informed Mr. JOHNSON that the "I Am" Cult is presently locating on gold-mining property above Boulder, Colorado, about two miles below Jimtown, Colorado, which property is owned by Mrs. CHAVEZ of New Mexico. Mr. LIEBHARDT further stated that they are operating under the name of THE NEVADA ENGINEERING COMPANY, which is a company organized by Mr. RICHARD KING, Hollywood, California, telephone, Hollywood 5040. He also stated that the attorney for the "I Am" Cult is Mr. WOOLEY, Los Angeles, California, telephone, Tr. 5421, and that the head of the group at Boulder is Mr. DAVID SAYRE, who is from Seattle, Washington.

AT BOULDER, COLORADO

Sheriff GEORGE A. RICHART, advised that he had received a report from Mr. W. S. CRAIGHEAD of the CRAIGHEAD MOVING AND STORAGE COMPANY, 1911- 11th Avenue, that FRED LIEBHARDT, DON BALLARD, DAVID SAYRE, and about twelve other perons had come into Boulder with four trucks from California, and had rented storage space from him. These persons were members of the "I Am" Cult, a religious organization. In this storage space they had placed all kinds of tools, lumber, bricks, tires, oil, gasoline, grease, radio receiving set, amplifying unit, rope and about 600 rounds of 30-30 ammunition and about 200 rounds of .45 ammunition. This material was stored in the name of FRED LIEBHARDT, but Sheriff RICHART stated that the insurance on same is in the name of SAYRE.

Postmaster PERCY B. PADDOCK advised that it had been reported to him by Mr. JACK ADLER that a group of people calling themselves the

"I Am" Cult had rented a storage room from him on his property and he was very suspicious of them because they had about 2100 gallons of gasoline, several rifles and were very secretive about their business. Mr. PADDOCK stated that ADLER was also suspicious of them because several of the persons had German names.

Officer ROBERT S. SMITH, Boulder Police Department, advised that he had received an identical report from ADLER, and that he, in company with Deputy Sheriff ARTHUR EVERSON, had gone through the material stored in CRAIGHEAD's MOVING AND STORAGE COMPANY, and had found all kinds of lumber, tools, bricks, tires, amplifying unit, rope and some 30-30 ammunition and .45 ammunition.

Officer SMITH also stated that DAVID SAYRE was now living at 2135 - 4th Street, Boulder, Colorado, and DONALD BALLARD was living at 735 Spruce Street, Boulder, Colorado.

Mr. A. J. ADLER, 214 Pearl Street, advised that on about January 15, 1942, he had rented a barn located on his property at 214 Pearl Street, to DAVID SAYRE, and that in this building, in the latter part of January, SAYRE and several others had moved various items of machinery and supplies into it, consisting of lathes, drill presses, power hacksaws, and other items that he could not recall. Mr. ADLER stated that he had seen three rifle-carrying cases being moved into the building, but that he had not seen any rifles; however, it appeared to him that there were rifles in the carrying cases.

ADLER also stated that he had been informed by one GEORGE HAGERMAN that they were going to mine, but Mr. ADLER noted that to date no mining operations have taken place. ADLER advised that he had talked to HAGERMAN in German and that HAGERMAN had informed him that he, HAGERMAN, had been born in Hamburg, Germany, and had formerly served in the German Army; however, he had deserted to Sweden and later came to this country.

AT DENVER, COLORADO

The facts of this case were discussed with United States Attorney, T. J. MORRISSEY, and he advised that inasmuch as no information had been developed to show that any contraband property was in the possession of enemy aliens, he would not authorize the issuance of a search warrant.

- C L O S E D -

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

RPK:TD

February 11, 1942

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Tour Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: I AM;
Mrs. Bullard et al
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SAC Nicholson called from Denver with respect to this matter and stated that he had personally interviewed Mrs. Bullard and her secretary, Mrs. B. O. Mundy, in Denver and had questioned them concerning allegations that reports had emanated from the headquarters of the I AM group that the Pacific Coast was to be bombed on February 12, 1942.

He stated that both Mrs. Bullard and Mrs. Mundy emphatically denied that any such report had emanated from their headquarters. They stated that they had no information of any sort concerning a bombing and that as a matter of fact no letters had been issued and approved by them with regard to any matter of a similar nature; that the only correspondence which they had was written on stationery of the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, and that the extent of their correspondence was so limited that they did not have any letterhead stationery of their own.

Nicholson stated that Mrs. Bullard informed him that there were no Communists in her organization and that as a matter of fact the principles of the I AM group were directly opposed to Communism in any form. She also stated that the group had no ideas of sabotage and that the reports with respect to the proposed blocking of highways by members of the I AM group were entirely ridiculous. Nicholson said that he was impressed with the sincerity of Mrs. Bullard and felt that while she might be a religious fanatic, she was definitely not subversively disposed. He said that he would keep alert as to the activities of the group while they were in his district and if there was any information of interest developed he would immediately contact the Bureau.

Respectfully,

R. P. Kramer

RECORDED 62-56722-73
INDEXED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 21 1942
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DATE 11/9/82 BY SP3 STD

FD-11

March 3, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

ATTN: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

Re: EDNA W. BALLARD, with aliases, et al

"I AM MOVEMENT"

MAIL FRAUD

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions contained in Bureau Bulletin No. 17 dated May 15, 1936, kindly advise this office immediately if the Identification Division receives any record of arrest of the following individual during the period of time specified below(*):

NAME AND ALIASES: EDNA W. BALLARD alias Saint Germain, Jesus, Joan of Arc, Lotus Ray King, Chanera.

F.B.I. or POLICE NO. U.S. Marshal, Los Angeles, Calif., #8605
F.P.C.
DATE & PLACE OF SENTENCE: 2/17/42, Los Angeles, Calif.
ACTUAL SENTENCE IMPOSED: $8,000 fine
SUSPENDED SENTENCE IMPOSED: One Year on each of seven counts,
PROBATION IMPOSED: One Year sentences to run concurrently.
PERIOD PROBATION IN FORCE: 2/17/42 to 2/17/43

Very truly yours,

R. B. HOOD
Special Agent in Charge

62-7167-74
FEDERAL DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
1 MAR 6 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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TMA:dhm
36-158

COPY IN FILE

62-GAR-23147

FD-11

March 3, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

ATTN: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

Re: DONALD BALLARD, with aliases, et al
"I AM MOVEMENT"

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions contained in Bureau Bulletin No. 17 dated May 15, 1936, kindly advise this office immediately if the Identification Division receives any record of arrest of the following individual during the period of time specified below(*):

NAME AND ALIASES: DONALD BALLARD, alias Edona Eros Ballard, Layfayette

F.B.I. or POLICE NO. U.S. Marshal, Los Angeles, Calif., #8606
F.P.C.
DATE & PLACE OF SENTENCE: 2/17/42, Los Angeles, California
ACTUAL SENTENCE IMPOSED: $400.00 fine
SUSPENDED SENTENCE IMPOSED: Thirty Days on each of 3 counts sentences to run concurrently
PROBATION IMPOSED: One Year
PERIOD PROBATION IN FORCE: 2/17/42 to 2/17/43.

Very truly yours,

R. B. HOOD
Special Agent in Charge

TMM:dhm
36-138

COPY IN FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 6 1942
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FILE NO. 36-138

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA | 3/3/42 | 12/2/41 to 1/30/42 2/17,23/42 | THOMAS M. MULHERIN (A) DHM |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| EDNA W. BALLARD, alias Saint Germain, Jesus, Joan of Arc, Lotus Ray King, Chanera; DONALD BALLARD, alias Edona Eros Ballard, Layfayette; BETTY MUNDY; PAUL STICKELL; LOUISE MAJERUS; WILLIAM J. CASSIERE. "I AM MOVEMENT" | MAIL FRAUD |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

EDNA BALLARD and DONALD BALLARD found guilty by jury after trial. Other defendants found not guilty. On February 17, 1942 EDNA BALLARD given suspended sentence of one year, fined $8,000.00 and placed on probation for one year. On same date DONALD BALLARD given suspended sentence of one year, fined $400.00, and placed on probation for one year. Other indictments dismissed.

- C -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent THOMAS M. MULHERIN, Los Angeles, November 23, 1941.

DETAILS:

After a trial lasting from December 2, 1941, the jury on January 31, 1942, returned a verdict of not guilty as to all defendants except EDNA W. BALLARD and DONALD BALLARD. A verdict of guilty as to six substantive counts of mail fraud and a count of conspiracy was returned as to Mrs. BALLARD. A verdict of guilty as to two substantive counts of mail fraud and one count of conspiracy was returned as to DONALD BALLARD.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: R B Hood SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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62-26722-76

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MAR 6 1942

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7-2034

On February 17, 1942, Federal Judge J. F. T. O'CONNOR sentenced EDNA W. BALLARD to one year's imprisonment on each of the seven counts, sentences to be concurrent, and imposed fines totaling $8,000. Judge O'CONNOR suspended the prison sentence and placed Mrs. BALLARD on probation for a period of one year. Also, on February 17, 1942, Judge O'CONNOR sentenced DONALD BALLARD to a thirty day jail sentence on each of the three counts on which he was convicted, sentences to be served concurrently, and imposed fines totaling $400. Judge O'CONNOR suspended the jail sentence imposed on DONALD BALLARD and placed him on probation for a period of one year.

Probationary conditions were not outlined in the sentences imposed by Judge O'CONNOR. The sentences imposed were confirmed by an examination of file No. 14,858 in the office of the U. S. Clerk of Court, Los Angeles. At the latter office it was determined that indictments Nos. 14,496 and 14,471 were dismissed against all defendants on September 8, 1941.

Disposition sheets as to BETTY MUNDY; PAUL STICKELL; LOUISE MAJERUS; and WILLIAM J. CASSIERE are forwarded to the Bureau with copies of this report. Probationary letters as to EDNA W. BALLARD and DONALD BALLARD are being forwarded to the Bureau.

ENCLOSURES:

BUREAU:

Four disposition sheets relating to:

BETTY MUNDY
PAUL STICKELL
LOUISE MAJERUS
WILLIAM J. CASSIERE.

--CLOSED--

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FILE NO. 56-138

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA | 3/3/42 | 12/2/41 to 1/30/42 2/17,23/42 | THOMAS M. MULHERIN (A) DEM |

TITLE: EDNA W. BALLARD, alias Saint Germain, Jesus, Joan of Arc, Lotus Ray King, Chanora; DONALD BALLARD, alias Edona Eros Ballard, Layfayette; BETTY MURDY; PAUL STICKELL; LOUISE MAJERUS; WILLIAM J. CASSIERE. "I AM MOVEMENT"

CHARACTER OF CASE: MAIL FRAUD

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

EDNA BALLARD and DONALD BALLARD found guilty by jury after trial. Other defendants found not guilty. On February 17, 1942 EDNA BALLARD given suspended sentence of one year, fined $3,000.00 and placed on probation for one year. On same date DONALD BALLARD given suspended sentence of one year, fined $400.00, and placed on probation for one year. Other indictments dismissed.

- C -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent THOMAS M. MULHERIN, Los Angeles, November 23, 1941.

DETAILS:

After a trial lasting from December 2, 1941, the jury on January 31, 1942, returned a verdict of not guilty as to all defendants except EDNA W. BALLARD and DONALD BALLARD. A verdict of guilty as to six substantive counts of mail fraud and a count of conspiracy was returned as to Mrs. BALLARD. A verdict of guilty as to two substantive counts of mail fraud and one count of conspiracy was returned as to DONALD BALLARD.

| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA FILE NO. 100-10293

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA | 3/11/42 | 2/8,9,24/42 | THOMAS M. MULHERIN (A) DHM |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT | INTERNAL SECURITY - C |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

PAUL STICKELL is itinerant preacher who makes his living through preachings of "I AM MOVEMENT". Post Office Inspectors and attorneys who tried leaders of MOVEMENT in Los Angeles on mail fraud charge state that leaders, while swindlers and anti-administration, appear to have no connection whatsoever with Communistic Party. I AM members in Los Angeles deny responsibility for rumor that west coast was to be bombed February 12, 1942.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent LYNDON B. ALLEN, San Diego, February 17, 1942.
Teletype from Los Angeles to Bureau, February 9, 1942.

DETAILS:

A teletype dated February 7, 1942, was received from the San Francisco office stating that the wife of DICK ABDIE, San Francisco, received a letter from "I AM" headquarters, reported to be in Los Angeles, informing her that the entire PACIFIC COAST was to be bombed on February 12, 1942, and suggesting that officers of "I AM" be investigated for possible violation of the Sedition Act. Reference

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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MAR 13 1942

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7-2034

report from San Diego indicates that that Office conducted an investigation of PAUL STICKELL possibly in connection with the same matter.

During the latter part of the year 1940 the writer and Special Agent J. C. SLOANE conducted an accounting investigation of the records of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS and the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION in connection with mail fraud indictments which had already been brought against the following listed individuals as a result of investigation by the Post Office Department:

EDNA W. BALLARD, alias Saint Germain, Jesus, Joan of Arc, Lotus Ray King, Chanera
DONALD BALLARD, alias Edona Eros Ballard, Lafayette
BETTY MUNDY
CHARLES SINDELAR
PAUL POTTER
FRANK VON DERHOYA
PEARL SINDELAR
FRED E. DOBBINS
PAUL STICKELL
LOUISE MAJERUS
CECELIA MAJERUS
WILLIAM J. CASSIERE
CAROLIE HENDRICKSON, alias Ratana Hendrickson
FRANCES EKEY
BERT E. CORPORON
SALLIE BRESSLER
Mrs. PAUL POTTER
STANLEY CONRAD
Mrs. ADA COX FISHER
GRANT L. LEWIS
PEARL DIEHL
ROBERT LE FEVRE
JOHN C. FOSTER

The files of the Post Office Inspectors, the books of SAINT GERMAIN PRESS and SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION and information developed during the trial of the case showed that the "I AM MOVEMENT" had been started by GUY W. BALLARD and his wife, EDNA W. BALLARD to disseminate information of alleged appearances made to GUY W. BALLARD by SAINT GERMAIN, JESUS, and other "ascended masters". These visions or appearances or experiences of BALLARD were published in a series of books, the first of which was known as "Unveiled Mysteries".

The indictment in the case and evidence introduced at the trial indicated that BALLARD was living in the state of Oregon under a fictitious name (in order to avoid prosecution at Chicago, Illinois, for selling stock in a non-existent gold mine) at the time he wrote the book "Unveiled Mysteries", the material for which had allegedly been plagerized from other esoteric books.

GUY W. BALLARD died in December, 1939, and his wife assumed charge of the work. The books of the BALLARDS were published through the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, which had its offices at 1620 East 84th Place, Chicago, Illinois. The SAINT GERMAIN PRESS was a partnership composed of GUY W. BALLARD and EDNA W. BALLARD. On March 24, 1938, the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the state of Illinois. The officers and directors of this corporation were GUY W. BALLARD, EDNA W. BALLARD and HARRY N. ROGERS. The books which the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION sold were obtained from the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS. The SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC. was incorporated on December 19, 1939, to succeed to the business of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS. GUY W. BALLARD and EDNA W. BALLARD held the entire authorized capital stock of the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC., and after his death EDNA W. BALLARD acquired his stock so that she is now the sole stockholder of SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC. Also, following the death of GUY W. BALLARD, his son, DONALD BALLARD became an officer and director of the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION, prior thereto PAUL A. POTTER had succeeded HARRY N. ROGERS as an officer and director of SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION.

The profits of the SAINT GERMAIN FOUNDATION are governed by the price at which the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC. agrees to sell books to it and this price has apparently been manipulated by Mrs. BALLARD with an utter disregard of the economic factors involved. The investigation conducted by the Post Office Inspectors indicates that she rules the Movement in an arbitrary fashion and will permit no one to continue in the Movement who opposes her.

CHARLES SINDELAR, who owns and operates the SINDELAR STUDIOS at 2600 Hoover St., Los Angeles, California, publishes a monthly magazine known as the "Voice of the I AM" in which is published the alleged continuous revelations which are made to Mrs. BALLARD by SAINT GERMAIN and the "other masters". SINDELAR makes his living from the sale of the magazine, various religious articles approved by Mrs. BALLARD and from the advertising matter published in the magazine. In return he makes so-called "Love Gifts" to Mrs. BALLARD.

Two trials of this case were had. The first was in the latter part of 1940 and early 1941. In this first trial FRANK VON DERHOYA, CHARLES SINDELAR and PEARL SINDELAR were acquitted. On April 12, 1941, a new indictment was returned against only six of the previously named defendants, namely EDNA W. BALLARD; DONALD W. BALLARD; BETTY MUNDY; PAUL STICKELL; LOUISE MAJERUS and WILLIAM J. CASSIERE. BETTY MUNDY is the Secretary of Mrs. BALLARD, who travels with her; LOUISE MAJERUS is a Secretary to Mrs. BALLARD who operates the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC. offices at Chicago, Illinois, while Mrs. BALLARD is on tour; and PAUL STICKELL and WILLIAM J. CASSIERE are itinerant preachers who make their living by spreading the teachings of the "I AM" and selling the books of the "I AM". STICKELL and CASSIERE are permitted to retain "Love Gifts" received from the audiences to which they preach. They are obliged to buy the books which they sell from the SAINT GERMAIN PRESS, INC.

The second trial of the case resulted in the conviction on January 31, 1942, of EDNA W. BALLARD and DONALD BALLARD and of the acquittal of the other four defendants. On February 17, 1942, Federal Judge J. F. T. O'CONNOR sentenced Mrs. BALLARD to one year suspended and placed her on probation for one year, and at the same time he sentenced DONALD BALLARD to thirty days suspended sentence and placed him on probation for one year. A fine of $8,000 was assessed against Mrs. BALLARD, and a fine of $400 was assessed against DONALD BALLARD.

It was learned from DAVE CANNON, principal attorney for the BALLARDS and from newsclippings in the local papers that EDNA W. BALLARD, DONALD BALLARD, and about three hundred disciples had gone to Santa Fe, New Mexico, for the purpose of starting a new "I AM" School following her conviction on January 31, 1942, and prior to the receipt of the teletype from San Francisco on February 7, 1942. In view of this a teletype was sent to the El Paso Bureau Office asking that investigation be conducted at Santa Fe in order to determine those responsible for the bombing rumor. CHARLES SINDELAR was questioned by the writer as to his knowledge of the rumor. He said that none of the leaders of the "I AM" were responsible for the rumor and said that if such a rumor were circulated it had probably been emanated from enemies of the "I AM" in the hope of discrediting the organization when the predicted bombing did not occur. SINDELAR did, however, state that there was a rumor prevalent in "I AM" circles that California was to be placed in martial law and that "I AM" members were to be placed in concentration camps. SINDELAR said that these latter rumors were circulated as a result of statements made by Government counsel during the recent trial. SINDELAR said that he had called a meeting of over one

hundred "I AM" students who were still in Los Angeles on February 10, 1942, and they all stated that they had not heard the bombing rumor. The Los Angeles offices of ONI and G-2 were advised of this rumor on February 9, 1942.

Many of the published statements of the "I AM" and the oral statements made by Mrs. BALLARD have condemned President ROOSEVELT for permitting an investigation to be made of the "I AM" by the Post Office Department and permitting the prosecution of the leaders. Also, prior to the war practically all policies of the Administration had been criticized by the leaders of "I AM". During the last election Mrs. BALLARD advocated the election of WENDELL WILLKIE for President. All members wear an American flag in their buttonholes or affixed to their dresses.

Assistant U. S. Attorneys NORMAN NEUKOM and RALPH LAZARUS who tried this case for the Government, and Post Office Inspectors WILLIAM CALLAHAN and VAN METER who investigated this case during the course of this investigation and trials have stated that the leaders are swindlers who have used the religious beliefs of their followers to build up their personal fortunes. However, they stated that they believed that the leaders had no connection with the Communistic Party or any other organization. In this respect it is pointed out that many of the "I AM" publications which have been perused by the writer are vitriolic in their attacks on Communism or any other ism disavowing the supernatural.

The following descriptions obtained during the investigation of the mail fraud case are set forth for your information:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | BALLARD, EDNA W. |
| Born | Iowa, June 25, 1886 |
| Height | 5'2" |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Hair | Blonde |
| Weight | 125 pounds |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Build | Stocky |
| Teeth | Lower gold crowns |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Female |
| Occupation | Head of "I AM" Movement |
| Fingerprints | Forwarded to Bureau by USM, LA, 7-25-40 under No. 8605 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | BALLARD, DONALD |
| Born | Chicago, May 12, 1918 |
| Height | 5'10" |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Hair | Brown |
| Weight | 140 pounds |
| Eyes | Gray |
| Build | Slender |
| Peculiarities | Pronounced Adams Apple |
| Mustache | Small |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Occupation | Assistant Leader of "I AM" Movement |
| Fingerprints | Forwarded to Bureau by USM, LA, 7-25-40 under No. 8606 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | STICKELL, PAUL |
| Born | Pennsylvania, Dec. 20, 1889 |
| Height | 5'6 3/4 " |
| Complexion | Thick, brow silvered |
| Weight | 203 pounds |
| Build | Stocky |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Teeth | Upper and lower bridges |
| Scars | Small brown mole back of right hand. 1" scar between right thumb and underfinger. 1" scar right index finger, under side. |
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Address | 1620 E. 84th Place, Chicago (Headquarters of ST. GERMAIN PRESS) |
| Fingerprints | Forwarded to Bureau by USM, LA, 7-27-40 under No. 8620 |

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

## UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE EL PASO FIELD DIVISION:

At El Paso, Texas: will conduct investigation requested in teletype of Los Angeles Office of February 10, 1942.

RECORDED

FJS:SB
62-56722-77

March 28, 1942

Assistant Chief of Staff
G-2, War Department
Washington, D. C.

Report of Special Agent Thomas M. Mulherin, dated March 11, 1942, Los Angeles California.

[illegible] TAINED
[illegible] ED
DATE 11/29/82 BY [illegible]

52341

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 4
MAR 30 1942 A.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORD

EJS:sb
62-56722-77

March 22, 1942

Director of Naval Intelligence
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

Report of Special Agent Thomas M. Mulherin, dated March 11, 1942, at Los Angeles, California.

11/29/82 SEE ATTACHMENT

52340

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Carson
Coffey
Pendon
Tolloman
McGuire
Quinn Tamm
Pease
Sandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 4
MAR 30 1942 A.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1942

Please answer the guestion ablout the mails. Mrs Fred Stoker,
I32 State St. Bkyn. N.Y.

Dear Mr Hoover: 15 yrs residence

I have always wished to help your work. And I hope you get unlimited money for it.

You, and Mr. Martin Dies, are great friends for America, and Americans.

And if you wish me to ever help you,- by those things a quiet lady can do, please let me know.

NOW, for ME: I ask you about the "I AM" Activity. Why were the mails denied Mrs. Ballard? And , just what can we do to return them to her?

You honour the legal case.

I have been in this Activity for IO years, before that I was in Theosophy, and Anthroposity,- I am a gruduate of high scool and college,- and then studied in Paris. Where I went I had a book and a professor,- in London, in Paris, in Rome, in Egypt, in Palestine.

Alexandria, Egypt was the great center of learning two thousand years ago,- (I regret I did not enter the collge there,) and, Egypt two thousand years ago, was called the land of CHEMISTRY. (Who, to-day, understands the process of the mummy?)

Books were my fetish, my hobby, my very life,- TRUTH, THAT IS WHY, JUST TRUTH.

You, who go so deep. are better informed,- see, and feel differently about a subject. Your education and your training comes to bear upon a subject,-

Just, so, does our education, and our training go into a subject. We are not nuts,- any more than chemists are nuts,- we only study. We are not spiritualists,- analysts,- we are not magic workers, thieves, or tricksters,- we are group students, who have clean teachers and who do clean things. No person smoking, drinking, sexing , swearing, red faced with anger,- trembling with hate,- COULD ENTER A GROUP OF "I AM," students. Can you inderstand this," WE BLESS THE WORLD." Difficult as it is to do. no dark rooms, light on it

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56729

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
18 MAR 27 1942
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mrs. Ballard made plenty of money. Her 6 million followers bought her books because they wanted them. (I've worn her books ragged,) Her magazines are perfect and cost but 55¢ Her songs are perfect music and cost but 50¢ Her pictures, art drawings by her artists, are inspired by beauty, rest, help,(no hellish conceptions,) Everything about this teaching is sane,- educational, clean, inspired with goodness and true honesty, and Christ.

Mrs Ballard, her husband, her son,- took no money from people. Her work was free.

She carried the LIGHT. (you have a light in your office, in your home, in your BODY.) That LIGHT can be IO watt,- or it can be IOO watt. (A gangster has a ½ watt,- You have a very powerful LIGHT, in your heart.) So strong no one can see it.

And this is about the only thing about you that comes from your DIVINE, Thus lantern are you.

In IO years I never heard Mrs Ballard, or her groups, ASK FOR MONEY. Or ask you to buy of her wares.

Her followers are not as a rule YOUNG People like me, American stock, wealthy parents, successful husbands, good children/ Such as yourf amily life. These people wishbto keep on with teachers,- for " "

Mrs Ballard did not pay her bills as her groups did. When she was in Wash. D. C. her groups paid for her work, her hotels, flowers, food. She carried about 20 people with her, and while these people, musicians, secretaries, maids to dress her did NOT live on whiskey, or cigarettes, or beer,- or dead carrion, (which poisons the body,- dead carcass,) Still, these people did eat and do eat greens, fruit, --- and her pupils paid the expense.

I should know. Rents, hotels, orchids cost plenty in mid-winter. Radio was 5.000.00 in IO days. Rent to lecture hall, IOO a day, 10 days. flowers 50.00 a day. hotels, etc.
Mrs Ballard never asked for this money,- her customers on her books got it together. Mrs Ballard waved the flag, always, and all those SONGS, "GOD BLESS AMERICA," come from her.

Now I can not give you a resume of her work in one letter. You have her books. And her magazines. Everything is there. People wish this education, and they WILL have it.

This is NOT spiritualism, it is not psychic, or ghosts, or ignorance,-

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/29/82 BY SP3 STD/NSG

THERE IS A LORD OF THE EARTH.
This is not man's earth.
THIS IS GOD'S WORLD.
Roosevelt is not the very highest,- (THE GREAT WHITE LODGE RUN THE EARTH.)
Who are They? You ask, Who are THEY. A group of Ascended Beings
WHAT WAS EASTER?
Why for 2000.0years,- does this EASTER DAY? GO to each ONE?
Ascension. ( NOW DONT SAY WE ARE A BUNCH OF NUTS)

Ever since Asph- Hypatia was murdered in the streets of Alexandria this ASCENSION has gone on in the minds of PEOPLE.

HOW CAN WE GET MRS BALLARD BACK IN THE MAILS?
We do not criticize the Govt. We only ask for Justice. This is the Ballard MISSION TO MAN, WE LOVE YOU AND WE BLESS YOU. That the LIGHT in the heart of each one, His lantern, may increase. Mrs Fred. Stokes

Best Available Copy

RCR:AVB

REGISTERED MAIL

April 8, 1942

Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
900 Security Building
Los Angeles, California

DATE 11/21/75 BY SP4 DJ

RE: "I AM" CULT, a religious organization;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C; SEDITION

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter to the Bureau dated March 31, 1942, with which you transmitted a letter and envelope addressed to Mr. DONALD BALLARD.

In accordance with your request, two photographic copies of the letter and envelope are being forwarded by registered mail to the El Paso Field Division, and the originals and three photographic copies are being forwarded to your office herewith.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures

cc-El Paso

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED PM
APR 9 1942
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

APR 23 1942

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California
March 31, 1942

1

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/24/82 BY SP8B Mcy

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: RE: "I AM" CULT, a religious organization:
INTERNAL SECURITY - C; SEDITION

In connection with the above entitled case, DON WALLIS, Plant protection Director of the Timm Aircraft Corporation, Van Nuys, California, has furnished this Office a letter postmarked at Van Nuys, California, dated March 4, 1942, addressed to Mr. DONALD BALLARD, Cosmopolitan Hotel, Denver, Colorado, and bearing the return address of Aero Brokerage Service, Inc., Los Angeles, Metropolitan Airport, Van Nuys, California, Box 289, R. E. GROSS. This communication was returned to the writer unclaimed, by the Hotel at Denver, and bears the Denver Post Office stamp dated March 23, 1942.

The letter is as follows:

"Box 289
Van Nuys, California.

"Cosmopolitan Hotel
Denver, Colorado:

DEFERRED RECORDING

"Dear Don:--

"I had hopes of contacting you while you were in town, the 16th.

"If you remember, I had located some objects in Mexico that you were desirous of having. I have now 50 of them, all new none have been fired since testing range. All are boxed, complete.

"I have gone to considerable effort in getting these up here.

"Write me soon as possible--"Objet d'armes est tres chaude."

"Yours Sincerely,

"/s/ "ROBERT E. GROSS."

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-56122 80

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 2 1942
HEAD SECTION

"P.S.

"Have lots of news & new devolpments -- some good buys on Beechcrafts, too. My regards to mother, Cookie, Carlsen, Pratt, & Kostie."

1 ENCLO.

DESTROYED 4/8/42

OCT 26 1954 96

RE: "I AM" CULT, a religious organization:
INTERNAL SECURITY - C: SEDITION

Mr. WALLIS advised that this letter was delivered to him

[redacted] b7D

In addition, Mr. WALLIS stated that the party delivering this letter to him has seen fifteen to twenty new .45 calibre revolvers in the drawer of the Subject's desk in his office at the Metropolitan Airport. It appears that the above communication may refer to them or to rifles. GROSS, according to WALLIS, is in the business of buying and selling airplanes and parts and is continually making trips of a few days to a week in duration and does not know anything in addition concerning him at the present time. However, it appears from this communication that BALLARD, who is the son of the founder of the "I AM" CULT, is apparently interested in obtaining rifles for some reason or other, and it is felt that investigation should be directed towards ascertaining the true reason for this interest in guns.

The Los Angeles Field Division will conduct background investigation concerning GROSS, and the original of the above letter is attached to the Bureau copies of this letter, and it is requested that the Bureau make three photographic copies of same for the Los Angeles Field Division and two photographic copies of same for the El Paso Field Division, and the original be returned to this Office.

Very truly yours,

R. B. HOOD
Special Agent in Charge

VIP:AH
100-10293
Enclosure

c.c. El Paso
Denver
San Diego
San Francisco

REL:cgb

April 14, 1942

RECORDED

62-56722-79

Mrs. Fred Stoker
132 State Street
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Mrs. Stoker:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter postmarked March 26, 1942.

With respect to your inquiry, please be advised that this Bureau does not have any jurisdiction over the admission of material to the United States mails. It is suggested that you direct any inquiries of this nature to the Postmaster General at Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

DATE 11/29/82 BY

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E.A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 3
APR 13 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

15 APR 20 1942

62-56722-80X

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RECEIVED SECURITY DIV
FBI

APR 23 9 48 AM '43
FBI
DEPT OF JUSTICE

APR 20 1943

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/30/82 BY 8850/mg

ENCLOSURE TO DIRECTOR

3 copies of papers received from censors in regard to "I AM" publications and literature.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California
April 27, 1942

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/30/82 BY SP8 BD/ag

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: EDNA W. BALLARD, et al
"I AM" Movement
Mail Fraud.

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto are copies of papers received from censors indicating that members of the "I AM" are causing their publications and literature to be mailed by parcel post from Mexico to addressees within the jurisdiction of the United States. An existing fruad order prohibits the entry of this matter in the United States mails.

This matter was discussed with the local post office inspectors by Special Agent THOMAS M. MULHERIN and they stated that the Mexican mailing constitutes a violation of the fraud order. It was suggested that this matter be forwarded to the Postmaster General, for the attention of Post Office Inspector W. F. CALLAHAN, who is handling the matter for the Post Office Department.

In view of the request for transmission to the Postmaster General the papers in question are being forwarded to you.

Very truly yours,

R. B. Hood
R. B. HOOD
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure
TMM:dhm
36-138

62-56722-81
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
9 APR 30 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

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OCT 26 1984 96
COPY IN FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Origin: EL PASO, TEXAS File No. 100-10293

| Made at: | Date: | Period: | Made by: |
|---|---|---|---|
| LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA | 5/5/42 | 4/1,6,11-13, 16-18/42 | W. E. DETTWEILER JR. VM |

| Title: | Character: |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY (C) SEDITION |

Synopsis: CHARLES HOFSTETTER advises father has returned to Santa Fe and has turned over his invention to Mrs. BALLARD, but retains formula in memory. ROBERT E. GROSS, an allegedly suspicious individual, has apparently been attempting to obtain weapons for DONALD BALLARD. GROSS interviewed after preliminary investigation, and advises has been friendly with DONALD BALLARD for the purpose of selling him airplane, thus realizing the profit involved, and also because suspicious of DONALD BALLARD and desired to keep aware of his activities. Upon discreet questioning, GROSS admitted sending letter to DONALD BALLARD to the effect that he had obtained the firearms for him, but states this untrue and only for purpose of keeping in contact with BALLARD and gaining additional information concerning his activities. GROSS fancies self as amateur detective attempting to obtain evidence against BALLARD prior to turning such evidence over to the FBI.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/30/82 BY SP6 BCS/MS

Reference: Report of Special Agent E. P. FERRIS, El Paso, Texas, February 21, 1942.

Letter to the Bureau dated March 31, 1942.

Bureau letter to Los Angeles dated April 8, 1942.

| Approved: | Do not Write in These Spaces |
|---|---|
| [signature] S.A.C. | 62-56722-82 |
| Copies: 5 Bureau, 2 Denver, 2 San Diego, 2 San Francisco, 4 El Paso, 1 G2, Los Angeles, 1 G2, San Francisco, 1 ONI, Los Angeles, 1 ONI, San Diego, 3 Los Angeles | RECORDED INDEXED MAY 14 1942 FBI |

COPY IN FILE

FILES DIVISION
OUTGOING

MAY 23 5 56 AM '42

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Details: A letter dated March 4, 1942, was received from the El Paso Field Division advising that an informant of that office had stated that JOSEPH HOFSTETTER, a well known inventor, had been working on an invention for mission to the War Department, which invention was a small turbine which would able a submarine to operate upon a very small amount of fuel, using electrical energy in its stead, and that due to the lack of funds by HOFSTETTER, and becau his wife, OLGA, is a member of the "I AM" cult, the plans of this invention wer placed in the possession of Mrs. EDWARD BALLARD, the head of the cult. Instant letter requested that Mr. HOFSTETTER be interviewed at his home, 7021 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

RECEIVED
MAY 23 1942
F. B. I.
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
SECTION

Inquiry at 7021 Franklin Avenue, revealed that JOSEPH HOFSTETTER was longer residing there; however, his son, CHARLES HOFSTETTER, was there. CHARLES HOFSTETTER was interviewed at this address, which is his home, and advised that his father, JOSEPH HOFSTETTER, had returned to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and was re ing at 745 Cerillos Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico. HOFSTETTER advised that it woul be preferable to reach his father through Miss EVALINE MYERS, Post Office Box # Santa Fe, New Mexico, rather than contact him directly. He stated that he fear that if his father were contacted directly, he would be under the influence of HOFSTETTER and would likely be uncooperative, but that if separated from his wi it is believed that he would furnish all available information requested.

HOFSTETTER advised that Special Agent E. P. FERRIS of the El Paso Of was a friend of his, and he had previously furnished information to Agent FERRIS CHARLES HOFSTETTER advised that he has been attempting to secure a position in t Bureau as a Special Agent, but was retarded because of his lack of a college de He stated in this connection that he had the equivalent to a college degree in Europe, but that he understood it was not acceptable. HOFSTETTER stated that hi father had actually given his invention over to Mrs. BALLARD because of the infl of Mrs. HOFSTETTER, CHARLES' mother, and JOSEPH's wife, and that as far as he kn Mrs. BALLARD had the invention now. CHARLES stated that the invention itself is difficult to explain, but that it was actually a marvelous invention which the A should have. He stated that from his acquaintance with it, it could enable submarines to go an extraordinary distance on a very small amount of fuel, and he further stated that this did not refer merely to submarines, but to any type of machine using fuel.

HOFSTETTER advised that he was seriously considering going to Santa F and pretending to join up with the Cult, to obtain information for the purpose o handing it over to this Bureau. He advised that he was presently hoping, howeve to hear shortly concerning his application with the Bureau. He stated that he h been offered a chance to put in an application as a translator, but that he was venturesome type and did not desire to spend his time sitting behind a desk doin translation, but rather to get out and investigate.

Referenced letter to the Bureau from the Los Angeles Office dated Mar 31, 1942, advised that a letter addressed to DONALD BALLARD from ROBERT E. GROSS

had been turned over to this office by a highly confidential source. The substance of this letter was that GROSS had claimed to have recently been down in Mexico and to have located fifty guns, all of which were new, and had not been fired since testing range, which BALLARD was desirous of having. It was deemed advisable to immediately place a mail cover on all mail addressed to ROBERT E. GROSS at Box #289 Van Nuys, California; however, the results of this mail cover have been unproductive to date.

On March 30, 1942, DON WALLIS, Plant Protection Official at Timm Aircraft Corporation, Van Nuys, California, telephonically advised that ROBERT GROSS was born in either Austria or Germany, and had told people that he has the ability to place flyers with the German Air Force, and that LAURA ENGELS used to frequent his place.

A Memorandum for the File dated April 12, 1942, reflected that one BILL KERSCH, 1220 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California, had advised this office that DONALD BALLARD had recently purchased a number of German Lugers at Frank A. Pachmayr's Gun Works at 1220 South Grand Avenue. Inquiry at instant store revealed that BALLARD has been purchasing several guns and in addition, shells for these guns. The files also revealed that R. L. STOKES, Post Office Box #1538, Santa Fe, New Mexico, has purchased two guns for BALLARD. The records of instant gun store revealed the following punchases along with the dates of purchase:

January 3, 1942: .30-calibre Luger Automatic, Serial #1196
January 3, 1942: .30-calibre Luger Automatic, Serial #10266

These two weapons are the weapons which were mentioned above to have been purchased by STOKES. The following were purchased on January 3, 1942, by BALLARD:

500 .30-.30 cartridges
500 .30-.06 cartridges
500 .30 Luger Automatic cartridges
250 .38 Imperial cartridges
1 4-Power Zeiss Telescopic Sight
1 2½-Power Zeiss Telescopic Sight
3 Magazines for .38 Super-Automatics

January 4, 1942:

1 .30-.06 Springfield Left-hand Rifle
120 .30-.06 cartridges
150 .45 Automatic cartridges
150 .38 Super-automatic cartridges
100 .38-Long Colt cartridges

On December 11, 1941: 150 .38 Special cartridges

On December 29, 1941:

1 .22 Benjamin Pistol
1 b.b. Benjamin Pistol
500 .22 pellets

Inquiry among the Robbery Detail at the Los Angeles Police Department which has a list of all firearms purchased in Los Angeles, revealed that on July 21, 1941, BALLARD had purchased a Colt .22 Woodsman #123411, and on July 11, 194 had purchased a .38 Colt, Semal #34510, from Bullock's Department Store.

BALLARD's address was listed as the Biltmore Hotel during the purchas of the above articles, with a forwarding address upon his departure of 1735 Sher Street, Denver, Colorado. According to FRANK A. PACHMAYR, owner of instant stor BALLARD has paid $450.00 over a three-month period for the above articles.

On April 11, 1942, it was ascertained from a highly confidential sour that ROBERT GROSS had sent an Air Mail letter to DON BALLARD at Denver, Colorado to the address 707 Powerhouse Apartments, Denver, Colorado. A telephone call wa made to the Denver Office to ascertain if that office could discreetly obtain, through confidential sources, the substance of the letter sent to BALLARD by GRO however, an answering teletype from the Denver Office revealed that efforts to locate instant letter produced negative results.

Confidential National Defense Informant T-1 advised that ROBERT GROSS was a hangar-boy who took care of planes at the Metropolitan Airport, that he di not have a license himself, probably due to his poor eyesight. Informant vise that GROSS lived at Hangar Number 4, which houses the Aero Brokerage Company whe GROSS works, and that GROSS lives on the second floor in one corner of the hanga According to Informant, GROSS earns $14.00 per week at his present employment. Informant advised that it was his belief that GROSS was of Russian descent, and his parents were supposedly killed during the Russian revolution. GROSS's famil name was supposedly long, and upon the death of his family he supposedly came to United States when very young and was adopted by a family named GROSS, which nam he has since used.

Informant stated that he was quite sure that he had seen six guns whi He thought were automatics, all holstered, in a drawer of a desk belonging to GR He stated, however, that he could not tell if the automatics were new or not. H advised that he was suspicious of GROSS because he seemed to be too well educate for the salary which he presently receives. He advised that GROSS's foster pare reside at Logansport, Indiana, and that GROSS himself is now a naturalized citiz He stated that GROSS has also used the name MICHAEL LINIKOFF (phonetic), and tha he had never been regularly adopted by the GROSS family. It was Informant's im- pression that GROSS had come to the United States in 1928 and had been naturaliz in 1933. Informant stated that Mr. ERICKSON, owner of the Brokerage Service, ha also seen guns in GROSS's possession, and Informant believed that ERICKSON also suspicious of him.

According to Informant, GROSS used to own a Dusenberg, sold it and bought a Lincoln, but inasmuch as he couldn't pay for that, had to get rid of that car also. Informant advised that GROSS was very anti-Jewish and was very outspoken in his hatred of the Jews.

Mr. ED L. ERICKSON was interviewed at the Aero Brokerage Service, Hangar Number 4, Metropolitan Airport, Van Nuys, California, and he advised that GROSS had been employed there approximately two years, that he was an excellent worker, and seemed to be a boy who liked to make others believe he was much more important than he actually was.

Asked as to whether GROSS knew LAURA ENGELS, Informant stated that he was positive that he did not know her. He stated that whereas LAURA ENGELS had landed at the airport quite frequently upon different flights, and that no doubt GROSS had seen her and possibly talked to her, he did not know anything more about her than just that. Asked as to any weapons that GROSS might have, ERICKSON advised that he had one that he knew of inasmuch as GROSS had been sworn in as a watchman on the field, and he believed that he had one other gun also.

Mr. R. E. BRENNAN, 8021 Sepulveda Boulevard, Van Nuys, California, had stated that he had overheard GROSS say that he possessed the right connections and had already managed to place someone in the German Air Force. He advised that GROSS at that time was talking to a man by the name of TWICHELL, also anti-Jewish, who was an actor in Hollywood. He stated that he had overheard this conversation in approximately August, 1941, in the airport cafe in Hangar Number 1 of the Metropolitan Airport. He stated that on one occasion he had seen LAURA ENGELS talking to GROSS, but did not know whether he actually knew her.

On April 17, 1942, it was ascertained that GROSS was contemplating leaving this vicinity, and heading East for the purpose of obtaining a position. In view of this fact, constant efforts weremade to ascertain his itinerary and any information which would indicate his destination. Various inquiries at the airport revealed that he was apparently attempting to cover up his tracks inasmuch as he was telling different people all different stories as to his itinerary. It was believed that he was planning to leave town on the night of April 17, and GROSS did leave the airport on the afternoon of April 17, 1942, and headed for Los Angeles, where he was supposed to meet another car to be taken back East. GROSS was overheard making a telephone call, and the number which he called was jotted down and turned over to Reporting Agent. Confidential National Defense Informant T-2 ished the name and address of the person to whom the number which GROSS call issued, and on the following day, a call was made at the home of this indivi DONALD SCHLAIFER, 803 North Kingsley Drive, Los Angeles, California. A brief liminary investigation revealed Mr. SCHLAIFER was Jewish and would apparent reliable contact.

Mrs SCHLAIFER was interviewed at her home at the time, ina SCHLAIFER was in bed, having worked all night. She advised that GROSS

the previous day and that she herself worked that night, and upon her depart GROSS was still in the home. She stated that she did not know whether he had stayed all night or not, but when questioned further and requested to ascertain any beds had been slept in, she did this, and returned saying that evidently GROS had spent the night there.

Mrs. SCHLAIFER stated that GROSS had advised that he intended to go ba East to attempt to get a position and as far as she knew, he might have already gone, although a great number of his clothes were left behind; however, she believed that he might have left and intended sending for these clothes at a later date. When questioned concerning GROSS and his background, she stated that the o thing she knew about him was what she had been told by GROSS himself, and that apparently he was Russian and had come to this country when he was very young. Sh stated that he was a likable boy, and she did not have any knowledge that he was pro-German in any way outside of the fact that he was apparently quite anti-Jewis Mrs. SCHLAIFER was requested to advise this office at the first moment she heard from GROSS, and she promised that she would do so.

As Agent was leaving the home of Mrs. SCHLAIFER, GROSS himself walked up to the door, and Agent recognized him immediately from the description which had been given throughout the investigation. This description is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Age | 28 |
| Height | 5' 8" |
| Weight | 140 lbs. |
| Hair | Brown |
| Eyes | Blue; wears glasses with very thick lenses and rims |
| Mustache | Reddish |
| Build | Slender |
| Complexion | Reddish |
| Teeth | Bad; two uppers on left front missing |

A brief discreet surveillance was conducted upon the house, after leav ing, and it was believed that GROSS was prepared to stay for quite some time.

It was deemed advisable to interview GROSS inasmuch as his activities according to persons interviewed seemed to indicate that he might possibly be pl ning to leave the country; and Agent accompanied by Special Agent WILLIAM McCARTH called upon GROSS and requested that he accompany agents to the office for questi ing. GROSS freely consented to do this, and was questioned at the Los Angeles office.

He advised that he had been born ROBERTO ANGENIO LONG, and that he was more frequently known as ROBERT EUGENE GROSS, but that he was also known as MICHA DE LINYAKOFF. He advised that he had been born August 1, 1915, and had been put

an orphanage prior to 1918, from where he was taken by WILLIAM E. GROSS, 525 Fifteenth Street, Logansport, Indiana, in 1918. GROSS stated that he was never legally adopted, but that he lived with the GROSS family from 1918 to 1935, and he had never known or seen his true parents. He advised that he had attended Logansport Grade School and Lincoln High School in Logansport, having graduated in 1933. He stated that this was the extent of his schooling. He advised that he had coached Dramatics immediately on leaving Logansport in the surrounding territory. He stated that he had put on marionette shows for six or seven months in Indiana in 1935, that he had come to California in December, 1935, that he had been a house man in an Apartment, 900 South Orange Grove Avenue, Los Angeles, for about six months, that he had then worked in a drug store at 2110 Laurel Canyon Boulevard, Los Angeles, for about a year; that he had subsequently been employed by the Catalogue Filing Company, 8750 El Tower Place, West Hollywood, California, about one year, and next at Coby King's Restaurant, in the eighty-seven hundred block, Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. He advised that after this he had been employed on the Judge OLAND's Estate for two months doing landscaping work and that he had returned to Logansport for about six months during which time he had worked at the Kinner Stores in Logansport. Following this he had again returned to Los Angeles and worked for DON FELDMAN on Wilshire Boulevard at an antique store.

Following this he had been employed at the Los Angeles Metropolitan Airport by the Aero Brokerage Service, Incorporated, and had been so employed for the past two years. He stated that in this connection he had done all types of jobs, from office work to hangar boy, including sales work and all types of work connected with airplanes. He stated that he has been a C.A.A. Airport Officer since December 7, 1941, the outbreak of the war.

GROSS advised that as far as his family was concerned, he had no brothers or sisters, either whole, half or otherwise. He considers the GROSSES as his parents inasmuch as they are the only ones whom he could so consider. He advised that WILLIAM E. GROSS, his father, is a naturalized citizen, and has been since 1938, the exact date of which he did not know. According to GROSS, his foster father was born in Germany but came to the United States when he was nine years old. Mrs. GROSS's name is MAUDE MAY (ADAM) GROSS. She is an American-born woman of Irish descent. GROSS advised that his real mother was Italian and his father American-born. He claimed that he was not a member of any national organization nor was he connected with any local organization, that he had no sympathy whatsoever for either the Communist or Nazi parties, and on the contrary was strictly opposed to either and both. He advised, regarding his religion, that he is a member of the Christian Science Church.

His closest friends, he claimed, were FREDERICK WHEELER and HUGH FERGUSON, who owned a restaurant in Laurel Canyon where GROSS formerly was employed. He stated that they still live in Laurel Canyon, about the twenty-three hundred block, Marywood Trail. He stated that WHEELER presently runs the Little Red Front Book Store at Van Nuys Boulevard and Sylvan Street in Van Nuys, California. He stated

that his other closest friends were EDWARD ERICKSON, owner of the Aero Broke Service, Incorporated, Van Nuys, California, and a group of girls at the hom Mrs. FREY, 1627 North Ogden, Los Angeles, California. He advised regarding hi marital status that he is neither married nor engaged.

As regards his Selective Service data, he stated that he was regi in Van Nuys, California, and had been classified 2A, Order Number 3162, Loca Draft Board #177. At the time of his registration, GROSS gave his address as th airport in Van Nuys. GROSS claimed that he had never been out of the United Stat and that the only times he had left the State of California since his arrival he were in 1938 when he went to Logansport for six months, in 1937 when he went to Tucson for two months, and in early April, 1942, when he went to Tucson for four days with ED ERICKSON when ERICKSON was looking for a new location to which he could take his company inasmuch as no flying was permitted on the West Coast.

The above questioning was conducted by Special Agent McCARTHY in the absence of Reporting Agent, and Reporting Agent took up the questioning at that point.

GROSS advised that he had first met the SCHLAIFER family when the Aero Brokerage Service had sold a plane to SCHLAIFER. He advised that he had met both SCHLAIFER and his wife at the airport and that they had become quite friendly and had permitted GROSS to keep his clothes at their home. GROSS advised that he believed that the SCHLAIFERS had been married for approximately three years.

Questioned as to whether he had been born in Indiana as previously stated, or in Russia, as was brought out in the investigation, GROSS admitted tha he had claimed to many persons that he had been born in Russia because he had fou Russians very interesting and wanted to appear to be an unusual person. GROSS pr duced his Birth Certificate, which gave proof of his birth in Indiana as outlined

GROSS gave the following story of his life, which indicated a great in feriority complex which had been overcome by his false pretenses; the statements made by GROSS were apparently true, as brought out by the investigation.

He stated that when he had been in school he had never been able to participate in activities along with the other students because of his very bad sight, which necessitated the wearing of exceptionally thick-lensed glasses. He advised that he could never compete in sports nor do the other things that the ot fellows did, and consequently he became something of a bookworm and took to the cultural side of life. He stated that this was not as he preferred it, but was more or less forced upon him. In connection with his cultural life, he advised that he had read an exceptional number of books and had studied foreigners and their man isms quite diligently. He advised that he enjoyed foreigners from his study of them, and because of his knowledge through study, he attempted to associate among them. He stated that he has done this quite frequently and has tried to give the

impression that he is a White Russian. He stated this was not for the purpose of just misrepresenting himself as a White Russian, but mainly to disassociate himself from the Red Russians, or the Communists. He advised that he abhors Communism and all that it stands for as far as the United States is concerned. He stated that it might be all right for the Russians themselves, but it certainly is no form of government for this country.

He advised that due to his association with foreigners he became slightly acquainted with various languages, and presently speaks a smattering of German, Russian, Polish, French, and Spanish. He stated he has been living in Hangar #4 at the Metropolitan Airport since his employment there.

As regards his contemplated trip back East, he stated that first of all he plans to get his teeth fixed before he attempts to obtain a position inasmuch as they have been bothering him a great deal. He stated he was planning to go to Logansport and have a dentist give him attention, and that he was supposed to have left the day of the interview for the East with an uncle and aunt of one of his friends, JOHNNY MULVANEY, but that he had not heard from them or JOHNNY in the last day or so. He advised that MULVANEY lived on Nordhof Street, three houses East of Sepulveda Boulevard, on the outskirts of San Fernando, California.

Previous investigation had revealed that GROSS had been driven to town by a Negro, one PERRY FULLER, who resides at approximately 7900 Woodley, opposite the airport in Van Nuys. The investigation had further revealed that this FULLER had apparently been dealing in some "hot" automobile tires, for which he had paid MULVANEY sixty dollars. When questioned as to his means of transportation from Van Nuys to Los Angeles, GROSS advised that one J. D. GRAY had driven him into town from the airport. He stated that as he drove out, FULLER drove into the airport; however, he completed the drive with GRAY.

Questioned as to the alleged tire deal between FULLER and MULVANEY, GROSS advised that he had heard that FULLER was supposed to have paid MULVANEY sixty dollars to get some tires for FULLER, but he did not have information which would indicate that these tires were "hot" nor were they forbidden to be sold under the rationing order according to his knowledge. GROSS advised that FULLER was an artist who acts very effeminite and who supposedly does a lot of art work for Douglas and North American Aviation companies.

Previous investigation had revealed that GROSS had stated that he was going to pick up a girl in Tucson before proceeding farther East. When questioned concerning the identity of this girl, he advised that there was no such girl, that he had merely stated this because one of his friends, VIC STEELE, also desired to make the trip, and inasmuch as GROSS did not know the uncle and aunt of MULVANEY with whom he was supposed to drive, he did not feel that he could impose upon them by asking them to take someone else along. It was for this reason he had mentioned the fact that they had to pick up a girl in Tucson, because th

would indicate that the car was full and would leave no more room for an He advised that he had told various persons that he was going to various the country not with any intent to intentionally throw them off the track or up his own tracks, but merely because he felt that his future actions were non their business.

As mentioned above in the opening portion of this report, the letter which was mentioned revealed that GROSS had recently been to Mexico; however, as mentioned above, GROSS had claimed that he had never left the United States. Sternly questioned concerning any departure he might have made from the United States, GROSS was adamant in his statement that he had never been out of this country. He advised that Vallicita, California, was the nearest that he had been to Mexico. Questioned concerning his association with DONALD BALLARD and other members of the "I AM" group, he advised that he had met BALLARD and his friends a the airport when BALLARD contemplated buying a Beechcraft Airplane, which is sold by the Aero Brokerage Company.

GROSS stated that BALLARD had seemed quite interested in purchasing a airplane but that he had never done more than make numerous inquiries concerning the prices and operations, etc. GROSS advised that he had last seen BALLARD abou February 9, 1942, and he personally considered him something of a "screwball", a that he had been friendly with him because he wanted to make a sale of the airpla in which BALLARD had indicated his interest.

He advised that the following were individuals whom he had met with BALLARD and who seemed to be BALLARD's closest cronies:

[redacted] approximately age [redacted] b6 b7C
..... KOSTER, approximately age twenty-seven;
DICK PRATT, approximately age twenty-four;
..... KOTSMEYER, who has an apartment at the Town House, Denver, Colorado;
[redacted]....., aged [redacted] and
a man by the name of KING, who supposedly owns some kind of a mine in Santa Fe.

GROSS claimed that he did not know where BALLARD was presently located that is, whether it was in Denver or in Santa Fe, but that his forwarding addres at the Biltmore Hotel had been the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Denver, Colorado. He stated he had written to BALLARD once at the hotel, but he had not received an answer to this letter. When questioned concerning this latest letter, he freely admitted that he had claimed that he had recently been to Mexico and purchased numerous firearms, which he knew BALLARD was desirous of having. He stated that he had told BALLARD this because of his desire to keep BALLARD interested in pur chasing his airplane, and he thought this was an excellent means of keeping up a contact with him. He further advised that he himself was suspicious of BALLARD

inasmuch as he has indicated on many occasions his desire to obtain weapons, and he believes that BALLARD is just crazy enough to start some kind of trouble if he gets enough guns and ammunition. He advised that BALLARD was very anti-Jewish, although he would not consider him to be pro-Nazi.

GROSS stated that BALLARD had never given him any exact indication as to why he wanted the guns which he was attempting to possess for any other reason than merely to have them. It was GROSS's opinion that BALLARD might want them for the purpose of arming his followers, and he considered BALLARD to be so bitterly anti-Jewish and a little bit crazy that he would not be surprised if BALLARD should attempt to sabotage some Jewish institution.

Asked concerning any guns which he himself possessed, GROSS advised that he had never had more than two in his possession at any one time.

Returning to discussion of BALLARD, GROSS advised that he believes him to be slightly mentally deficient, and that because of this he needs watching. He stated that he and his followers might be crazy enough to stage some kind of an uprising which, although of no consequence as regards any military loss inasmuch as the Army could immediately put down any revolt by so small a group, he nevertheless could cause "an awful lot of trouble and inconvenience."

When questioned as to how he would have explained to BALLARD the reason he did not possess the guns if BALLARD made an attempt to purchase the guns supposedly bought in Mexico, GROSS advised that he would have invented some story probably that they had been confiscated upon being discovered.

GROSS advised that he himself hates the Nazis and although he is not anti-Jewish himself, he nevertheless claims to be for his purpose of getting to know people who are themselves anti-Jewish and possibly pro-Nazi. He stated in support of this claim that Mr. SCHLAIFER, with whom he had been residing and whom he considered one of his good friends, was Jewish, as well as were others whom he knew and liked very well. He advised that he hates the Nazis themselves, hating particularly their dominating attitude. In this connection, he mentioned his boyhood with the GROSS family when Mr. GROSS, whom he nevertheless liked very much, formerly was very domineering and strict with him as regarded any privileges or pleasures which he might desire.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

CONFIDENTIAL NATIONAL DEFENSE INFORMANT T-1:

[redacted] b7D

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE:

[redacted]

JEN:AR:US
62-56722-81

May 22, 1942

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/30/82 BY SP6 BTO/MP

The Honorable
The Postmaster General
Washington, D. C.

Re: Edna W. Ballard; et al;
"I AM" MOVEMENT; MAIL FRAUD

My dear Mr. Postmaster General:

In connection with the above investigation, there are attached hereto copies of certain papers received from censors indicating that members of the above movement are causing their publications and literature to be mailed by parcel post from Mexico to addressees within the jurisdiction of the United States.

This matter was discussed with Post Office Inspectors at Los Angeles, California, who requested that the material be brought to the attention of Post Office Inspector W. F. Callahan who it is understood is handling the matter for the Post Office Department.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAY 23 4 10 ... FBI ... ROOM ... JUSTICE

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Carson
Coffey
Hendon
Kramer
McGuire
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

Enclosures

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED ...
★ MAY 23 1942 ... FBI

C O P Y

March 9, 1942

Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Strauch:

The enclosed paragraphs will be self-explanatory and we are sending the February issues to you to be distributed through your group and whenever the opportunity presents itself.

We are sending these Tailway Express.

By the way, we will not be handling the Saint Germain Series books at 20% discount at present and are uncertain about receiving our order of supplies just now from Chicago because of the recent mail "activity". You will understand. We will send the 1941 bound volume upon its release from the bindery.

All blessings always and know we are thinking of you and the students there very very often.

CLAYRE SCHULTE YOUNG

CSY:bm by

P.O. We just found out we couldn't use Railway Express so are taking them down to Mexico and sending them by Mexican parcel post. Larry Cassiere, Brother Bill's brother is doing this for us.

COPY

We are calling for Ascended Master Friends to be raised up everywhere among our subscribers to accept and distribute this issue to the other subscribers in their vicinity. May we count on your co-operation in this respect?

The copies of the voice will be sent in your care and must not be re-mailed, of course. A postcard to the various addresses however could notify subscribers to call for their magazines at your home, or some half-way point, if you wish to play "Santa Claus." Your help will thus make the impossible possible!

We will be eternally grateful to each of you precious students for your grand assistance to the Voice of the "I AM" and the Studios.

COPY

Eva L. Blood
Library of Hawaii
Honolulu

Eva Carita Chang
1503-A4 Nuuanu Ave.
Honolulu

Honolulu Public Library

Mrs. Harry King
620-A Captain Cook Ave.
Honolulu

Mrs. Sam Morgan
3565 Pahoa Ave.
Honolulu

Bertram G. Rivenburgh
P.O. Box 2931
Honolulu

Mr. H. M. P. Rose
1939 Kocaumoku St.
Honolulu

Mrs. P. J. Yolland
1065 Ilima Dr.
Honolulu

Gurdon H. Wattles
(please hold for him)

J. E. Sasseen
U.S.S. Argonne
9th Division
Pearl Harbor
Oahu

Roxor Damon
Lanikai P.O.
Island of Oahu

R. L. Holt
P.O. Box 55
Lanikai, Oahu

Arthur B. Nolan
c/o Postmaster
Palmyra Island
Honolulu, T.H.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 100-7243

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| WASHINGTON, D. C. | 6/ /42 | 5/12,15/42 | S. A. [illegible] C.J.:[illegible] |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION |

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: War Department records disclose record of one PAUL [illegible] STIGMALL, army serial #1203390, who enlisted in the Maryland National Guard 6/4/17 at Hagerstown, Maryland. Drafted into Federal service 8/5/17 with the Headquarters Company, First Maryland Infantry. Honorably discharged 6/7/19 at Camp Meade, Maryland upon demobilization of the army with excellent character rating. This individual was born 12/23/[illegible] at Wilson, Pennsylvania.

RUC

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent E. P. [illegible] dated 2/21/42 at El Paso, Texas.

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

The following investigation was conducted by C. L. JONES, special employee attached to the Washington Field Division.

Miss [illegible], Clerk, Archives Division, War Department, made available the service record of one PAUL [illegible] STIGMALL, army serial #1203390, who may be identical with the individual mentioned in reference report.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

62-15[illegible] - 83

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5 Bureau
4 El Paso (1 G-2 Fort Sam Houston)
2 Chicago (Info)
[illegible] Washington Field

cc 2 Smith 6-15-42

JUN [illegible] 1942

COPIES DESTROYED

7-2034

This individual enlisted in the Maryland National Guard on 8/4/17 at Hagerstown, Maryland and was assigned to the Headquarters Company, First Maryland Infantry. He was drafted into Federal service on 8/5/17 under presidential call. On 10/1/17 this individual was situated at Camp McClellan, Alabama. He left this camp on 6/3/18 for service overseas, arriving in France on 6/27/18. He remained overseas until 5/11/19 when he sailed for the United States, arriving at Newport News, Virginia on 5/24/19. This individual was honorably discharged from the army on 6/7/19 at Camp Meade, Maryland upon demobolization of the army with excellent character rating, giving as his address for future reference, Wilson, Pennsylvania. At the time of this individual's enlistment in the army he was described as follows.

Height: 5'6½"
Weight: 138
Eyes: blue
Hair: brown
Complexion: fair
Date of birth: 12/20/89
Wilson, Pennsylvania
Nearest of kin: Father--J. H. ~~STICKELL~~
Wilson, Pennsylvania

In 1924 subject gave the name of his wife as
MRS. MAY THURIA ~~STICKELL~~
1213 Wilson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

Best Available Copy

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

FILE NO.

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| [illegible] | [illegible] |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

11/30/82

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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2 [illegible]

7-2034

"I AM" CULT CONFIDENTIAL ONI

Subject organization, sometimes known as the "PURPLE CULT," is a religious movement which has four subversive aspects: (1) members are urged to will that St. Germaine will blast the President from the earth; (2) members are told that no oath is binding; (3) leaders urge members not to buy Defense bonds; (4) members are urged not to register for the draft. Thismovement also teaches the doctrine of reincarnation and that members can get any material object such as money, etc., by willfull thinking. It is stated that meetings achieve a frenzied mass hypnotism. Mrs. Edna BALLARD and her husband GUY are leaders of the movement. Mrs. BALLARD is reputed to be a hard, dangerous fanatic whose followers would do anything for her. She and her son DONALD were convicted

"I AM" CULT Cont'd

on Jan. 31, 1942 on a mail fraud in Los Angeles. It is reported that they used the movement as a fraudulent money-raising scheme, which produced nearly $3,000,000. Reliable informants stated that anyone who believes in "I AM" and who obeys all the orders of the leaders is potentially dangerous to the U.S. Government.

11-ND, 12-ND, 13-ND cognizant.

To: FBI, MIS B-7-F(M)
June 8, 1942 CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8CBB/mz
ON 6/28/83
per Navy letter dated
4/11/83

62-56752-84
RECORDED
1 JUN 20 1942
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

4 JUL 8 1942
222

EX-8

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS

FILE NO. 100-1541

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| EL PASO, TEXAS | 6-25-42 | 4-23,27-42 5-7-42 6-5.9.10-12 | EDWARD P. FERRIS |
| TITLE: "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | | | CHARACTER: INTERNAL SECURITY (C) SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Partial account of minutes of meeting set out. Informant advises "I AM" members against Communism insofar as effects "I AM" activities. "I AMS" hope for political power. Literature obtained which was sold Informant stating, "Refuse to accept that draft for our American boys".

-C-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent EDWARD P. FERRIS, dated at El Paso, Texas, February 21, 1942; Report of Special Agent W. E. DETTMILLER, JR., dated at Los Angeles, California, May 5, 1942.

DETAILS:

AT SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Confidential Informant A, who is now a member of the "I AM" Cult furnished partial minutes of meetings held by "I AM" Cult in Santa Fe. These minutes reveal that in nearly every meeting held by the "I AM" Cult their principal topic of discussion is the obtaining of money, and that this is accomplished by means of love gift boxes. At the meeting held March 3, 1942, Mrs. BALLARD advised the congregation that if any FBI man questioned any of them for them to tell the FBI that she was responsible. "Tell them "I AM" is everything in the books. Let them come to me, I will take care of them, I will settle them."

Confidential Informant A advised that the meeting on March 24, 1942 began with the group leader, MAE BAKER, asking the audience to join her in a special decree which she read

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [illegible] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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4 - El Paso

JUL 1 1942

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sentence by sentence, the audience repeating each sentence after her. This special decree was for Mrs. BALLARD and was to be printed in the near future. Then after the salute to the "I AM" flag, the leader MAE BAKER reading from the August, 1937 issue of the magazine "Voice of the I Am" and pointing to the flag which stood on the front left hand side of the stage, read, "Many ask about the red in our flag, that symbolizes the blood shed by the early patriots for freedom of America and when the discord within our land has ceased, it will be replaced by gold as the Guardian Agent comes into full domination". Confidential Informant A advised that it seemed apparent to her that the "I AMS" were endeavoring to obtain such a position in the political field that after the war they would be the major political party.

Confidential Informant A further advised that on March 25, 1942, [redacted] b7D
[redacted] that Mrs. BALLARD would stand three trials if necessary but will take nothing more after that from the Government. She also said that the war is going to stop very soon before we know it; that the Ascended Masters are beginning to control now. Informant A's [redacted] also stated that all men who were members of the "I AM" belong to the Minute Men, which is an "I AM" organization for men only, and that they have been told they will live again.

Confidential Informant A furnished the pledge used when a member of the "I AM" joins what is known as the 100% "I AM" Class. This pledge is as follows:

"I desire to so LIVE that the Ascended Masters CAN work through me at any moment! To be worthy of this Great Priviledge I MUST put into practice and LIVE the suggestions which They Make. I know that by so doing I too will gain My Eternal Freedom and Ascension. I am thoroughly aware that these are, in brief:

"THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME". Bible. 1st Commandment. 1936 Sep. Voice P4.

"Every individuals first duty is Adoration and Love to the "One Mighty I AM Presence, to gain his Mastery, Eternal Freedom and make his Ascension as soon as possible". Saint Germain and Jesus. The Magic Presence, and Discourses.

"Whatever your attention is upon is your God, for there your energy is flowing and your energy is your life. "Saint Germain. 1936 Sep. Voice P 4. Read P 302-3 Discourses.

"I URGE the students everywhere, with all of the Love at My command, to FORGET EVERYTHING ELSE YOU HAVE EVER STUDIED. STAND ONE HUNDRED PER CENT IN AND WITH YOUR "MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE," and the "I AM DISCOURSES" by SAINT GERMAIN, and you will have such Freedom, such Joy, such Accomplishment, that

will forever dissolve all doubt and fear from your consciousness. When such Great Freedom is at your door, just for your acceptance and application, can you understand how great is Our Love and Desire to fully enable you to grasp those simple majestic Laws, that you may have the same Freedom which we experience? However, THIS CAN ONLY COME THROUGH YOUR JOYFUL WILLING ACCEPTANCE AND APPLICATION OF THIS TRUTH WHICH WE GIVE." Jesus. 1936 Feb. Voice, P 5.

Consequently I have absolutely severed ALL connections with ALL Occult Orders, Spiritualism, and organizations that might divert my attention and possibly prevent me from STANDING ONE HUNDRED PER CENT WITH MY OWN "MIGHT I AM PRESENCE".

I shall Never Again have any thing to do with astrology, numerology, crystal -gazing, ouiji board, automatic writing, Tarot cards, mediums, and all such things.

I shall Never Again use "serums" - "narcotics, alcohol, meat - all flesh foods-, tobacco, excess sugar, excess salt, and strong coffee." Magic Presence P 147-8. I shall not use garlic or onions, knowing the Ascended Masters will not come near if I do. I will use diligently the Remedy, the Violet Consuming Flame of Divine Love, for these things, to cleanse and purify my Temple. Magic Presence P 149.

I "will refuse in the future to listen to any silly human gossip, criticism, condemnation and judgement of anything or about anybody. Instead I will call the Mighty I AM Presence into action to produce Its Perfection everywhere I move and in everything I do, so that Great Marvels and Mighty Miracles will take place. "I absolutely "refuse acceptance" of all human creation and limitation.

I SHALL "stand as if there were nothing else in the World and Universe but the "I AM Presence". Great Divine Director, 1936 Voice, P II-18.

I shall keep my FEELINGS harmonized, "no matter what the provocation! " Saint Germain. 1936 Sep. Voice P 15.

I am aware that the Divine Creative sex force is to be used solely for providing a physical vehicle for a Brother seeking physical re-embodiment.

"I give ALL POWER to the I AM PRESENCE, which I AM, and I refuse with determination acceptance to anything else, ever again." Saint Germain. Discourses P 303. "I forever withdraw all power I have ever given to outer things, and stand serene in Thy Majestic Presence - Love, Wisdom and Power."

"There is only ONE POWER that acts, Give It Full Freedom, Stand with IT and let IT act. There is No Other Power to act." P 180.

I must call the Law of Forgiveness into action daily. "I AM the Law of Forgiveness and Forgetfulness of All human creation, and the Consuming Flame of All inharmonious action and human consciousness."

I have read Unveiled Mysteries, The Magic Presence and "I AM" Discourses by Godfre Ray King, and will endeavor to apply diligently the Truths therein given.

I know that in the outer it is possible to deceive other Brothers but NOT God, the "Mighty I Am Presence" or the Ascended Masters, whom I earnestly and sincerely desire to serve. I know that the Mighty Master Within is "my Certain Victory". My signature is my decree that I SHALL abide by and LIVE Their suggestions, and on this basis I desire to be a member of your 100% "I AM" Class." //

Mr. GEORGE BLOOM, Vice President, First National Bank of Santa Fe, contacted the reporting Agent and advised that he was chairman of the committee for pledging war bonds and stamps. That the solicitors in Santa Fe had contacted approximately four hundred of the "I AM" Cult and in no instance had any of the "I AM" members pledged themselves for even a ten cent defense stamp. BLOOM stated that many of the "I AM" members had used the excuse that it was not their war and for that reason they were not pledging bonds. Investigation reflected that no such statements had been made.

Confidential Informant A furnished the following paragraph from an announcement in the "Voice of the I Am", February issue, 1942, Page 20:

"Because of the recent vicious attempt to interfere with Saint Germain's "I AM" Activity in our beloved United States of America, by denying us the use of the mails, in bringing This Ascended Master Light and Freedom to Mankind, we are standing a million times more firm and unyielding than ever before, because this "I AM" Activity goes on regardless of any human being or all on earth."

Confidential Informant A stated that at all the meetings she has attended, the members of the Cult are urged to buy the "I AM" magazines and the "I AM" pamphlets and that on June 4, 1942 she gave [redacted] b7D

[redacted]

Confidential Informant A furnished writer with a leaflet from one of these pamphlets from which the following paragraph was taken, and this leaflet is being forwarded the Bureau as an enclosure with this report:

"LEGAL ACTIVITIES No. 503

MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE, GREAT HOST OF ASCENDED MASTERS AND ALL COSMIC BEINGS!

I refuse to accept those indictments, that tax investigation, that citation or that plagiarism suit any longer or that draft for our American boys. "I AM" the Presence which by the Power of This Light is your Master! Be Thou dissolved and consumed by the Powers of Light forever!

No further activity being noted this case is being closed pending further instructions from the Bureau.

ENCLOSURE: TO THE BUREAU
One leaflet from "I AM" pamphlet.

C L O S E D

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

Informant A- [redacted] b7D

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-21-97 BY SP6 D/MS

63-56722-83

ENCLOSURE: TO THE BUREAU
One leaflet from "I AM" pamphlet

E.P. # 100-1541

"I AM" "I AM" "I AM" Daddy's Victory of Eternal Illumined Obedience in all I do forever.

"I AM" "I AM" "I AM" the Silent Watcher's Mighty Victory and Power from the Heart of the Great Silence, filling my world this day.

"I AM" "I AM" "I AM" the Presence of the Legion of Light in full Victory, silencing all human creation in America forever.

"I AM" "I AM" "I AM" that "Light as of a Thousand Suns" descending into America right now, dissolving and consuming all human selfishness, viciousness and discord from her people forever.

"I AM" "I AM" "I AM" the Victory and Power of the Goddess of Peace's Eternal Peace-reigning-in-America-NOW.

SAINT GERMAIN'S ACTIVITIES No. 502

"MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE" AND EVERY GREAT BEING, POWER AND ACTIVITY OF LIGHT IN THE UNIVERSE!

Expand the Cosmic Light and Its Invincible protection to America thru the Saint Germain Press, the Saint Germain Foundation, the "Voice of the 'I AM'", Our Radio Activity, the "I AM" School and all under This Radiation, ten billion times more today than yesterday. Make us do ten billion times more business today than yesterday! Release ten billion times more Ascended

(Copyrighted by Saint Germain Press, Inc., 1941)



ENCLOSURE

Master Victory and Freedom thru them today than yesterday. Bring ten billion times more Ascended Master Success and Supply into them today than yesterday.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES No. 503

"MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE," GREAT HOST OF ASCENDED MASTERS AND ALL GREAT COSMIC BEINGS!

I refuse to accept those indictments, that tax investigation, that citation or that plagiarism suit any longer or that draft for our American boys. "I AM" the Presence which by the Power of This Light is your Master! Be Thou dissolved and consumed by the Powers of Light forever!

MUSIC OF THE SPHERES No. 504

"MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE" AND ALL BEINGS, POWERS AND ACTIVITY OF THE ASCENDED MASTERS' PERFECTION OF THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES!

Release ten billion times more Perfection, Beauty, Power, Victory, Healing, Protection and Joy thru Our Music today than yesterday! and make all our music Thy Ascended Master Music of the Spheres!

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT [illegible] FILE NO. [illegible]

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| [illegible] | 6-25-42 | [illegible] | [illegible] |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I [illegible]", a religious organization | [illegible] (3) [illegible] |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Partial account of minutes of meeting set out. Informant advises "I [illegible]" endorse against Communism insofar as effects "I [illegible]" activities. "I [illegible]" hope for political power. Literature obtained which was sold Informant stating, "Refuse to accept this draft for our Christian boys".

-C-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [illegible], [illegible], dated at [illegible], Texas, February 21, 1942; report of Special Agent [illegible], [illegible], dated at Los Angeles, California, May 5, 1942.

DETAILS: [illegible]

Confidential Informant A, who is not a member of the "I [illegible]" cult furnished partial minutes of meetings held by "I [illegible]" cult in Seattle. These minutes reveal that in nearly every meeting held by the "I [illegible]" cult their principal topic of discussion is the stabilizing of money, and that this is accomplished by means of long, lift hymns. At the meeting held March 3, 1942, Mrs. [illegible] advised the congregation that if any of them questioned any of them for them to tell them that she was responsible. "Tell them "I [illegible]" is everything in the books. Let them come to me, I will take care of them, I will settle them."

Confidential Informant A advised that the meeting on March 24, 1942 began with the group leader, [illegible], asking the audience to join her in a special chorus which she read

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Page 43 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 44 ~ b6; b7C;

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Page 44 ~ b6; b7C;

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RECORDED 62-56722-72 - 86

JPHa:hr
7-22-42

INFORMATION FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL,
MIDDLE DEED

Re: "I AM" CULT
INTERNAL SECURITY
SEDITION

12492 BY SEBD Dmk

Transmitted with this memorandum are copies of the following reports entitled as above which are reflective of the results of investigation conducted with reference to this matter:

Report of Special Agent Lyndon D. Allen dated February 17, 1942, at San Diego, California;

Report of Special Agent E. P. Ferris dated February 21, 1942, at El Paso, Texas;

Report of Special Agent E. F. Kieffer dated February 25, 1942, at Denver, Colorado;

Report of Special Agent Thomas H. Kilherin dated March 11, 1942, at Los Angeles, California;

Report of Special Agent W. E. Dottweiler, Jr., dated May 5, 1942, at Los Angeles, California;

Report of Special Agent Edward P. Ferris dated June 25, 1942, at El Paso, Texas.

Will you please advise me whether the facts set forth in these reports indicate a violation of the Sedition Statutes or any other statute over which the Bureau has investigative jurisdiction and whether in your opinion any additional investigation is warranted.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 4
JUL 24 1942 P.M.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
POST OFFICE BOX 1679
EL PASO, TEXAS

100-1541 June 26, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Re: "I AM" CULT, a religious organization
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)
SEDITION

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the closing report of Special Agent EDWARD P. FERRIS, dated at El Paso, Texas, June 25, 1942. It is requested that this case be referred to the Attorney General for his opinion as to prosecutive action on the violation of the Sedition Statute.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/2/82 BY SP2 BTD/MS

Very truly yours,

D. A. BRYCE,
Special Agent in Charge

EPF NJS

memo Berge
7-22-42
J.P.H.a.

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62-56122 86
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
9 JUL 1 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:JJM:emc

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 13, 1942

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Files

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: "I Am" Cult
Internal Security
Sedition

Reference is made to your memorandum of July 24, 1942, with attached reports concerning the above matter.

It is the opinion of the Criminal Division that the facts set forth in the reports above referred to are not sufficient to warrant that consideration be given to a prosecution herein for violation of the Sedition Statutes. It further appears that no additional investigation is warranted.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE
Assistant Attorney General

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[illegible]

FJS:WMJ

62-56722 -87

August 24, 1942

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/2/82 BY SP8BTD/mg

Special Agent in Charge
El Paso, Texas

Re: "I AM" CULT
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the request set forth in your letter dated June 26, 1942, in the above-entitled matter, copies of all pertinent serials relating to the activities of the above organization were made available to the Criminal Division of the Department to determine if the facts outlined therein indicated a violation of the Sedition Statutes or any other statute over which the Bureau has investigative jurisdiction.

By memorandum dated August 13, 1942, Assistant Attorney General Kendall Berge advised that it is the opinion of the Criminal Division that the facts submitted in this matter are not sufficient to warrant that consideration be given to a prosecution for violation of the Sedition Statutes.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
AUG 25 1942
FBI

1719 Park Avenue,
Minneapolis, Minn.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-4-82 BY SP8B D/MS

Gentlemen:

I read recently that different organizations should be watched and investigated for un-American activities and I sincerely believe that the "I Am" movement should be thoroughly investigated. Mrs. G.W. Ballard and her son Donald are at the head of this movement and they have already been in some trouble in Los Angeles, California.

They profess to stand for the Constitution of the United States but they are against the present set-up. They make no secret for their utter dislike of President Roosevelt and Mrs. Perkins, Secretary of Labor. They teach they are for constructive measure and never for destructive, war being destructive of course. Social Security is not right according to their belief because it is wrong to tax a pay check in a free country.

They teach that there is an abundance of everything, therefore no need to conserve paper, sugar, etc., nor to be prohibited from doing anything that they might want to do because this is a free country and if we have these restrictions we are being dictated to.

They might not do any great harm with these teachings but they certainly are not united solidly with the majority of good Americans in trying to end this war as soon as possible; which I hope we may do with the help of God, in the near future.

I feel that it is my duty to report this as it has been on my mind for some time.

Very truly yours,

Eunice Martin

EUNICE MARTIN

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 12
SEP 12 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 12
SEP 10 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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AUG 26 1942

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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BUY
DEFENSE SAVINGS
BONDS AND ST

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Butte, Montana
February 13, 1943

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/4/82 BY SP8T3T5/mg

RE: ONI

Dear Sir:

The Bureau is advised that information has come to my attention to the effect that Ensign EDWARD ANNIS, a representative of the above captioned organization out of the Seattle Office, was in Missoula, Montana, during the week of January 25, 1943, making an investigation into the purposes and activities of the organization known as "The Great I Am".

Ensign ANNIS contacted Agents GEORGE P. RHOADES and EDWARD M. CALLINAN of this office, who were in Missoula at that time, and made inquiry of them as to any information which we might have in our files concerning said organization. The Agents advised him that all such information would be in the files of the Butte Office and would have to be secured through regular channels. The Agents questioned him as to his knowledge of the organization and the reasons behind the investigation, and ANNIS stated that he knew nothing about it as the investigation had been referred to him without any background information. He did advise that the Navy likes to keep abreast of these organizations and know their purposes; however, he did not elaborate any further.

The Bureau is advised that some discreet inquiries were made by Agent CALLINAN, and it was learned that ANNIS contacted one JAMES M. JENSEN, 224 South Fifth Street East, Missoula, Montana, and LUCIEN J. CROONENBERGHS, 320 Stevens Avenue, Missoula, Montana.

For the Bureau's information, the records of the Butte Office, so far as the organization, "The Great I Am", is concerned, reflect a newspaper clipping which appeared in the Sacramento Union, under a Cleveland, Ohio, date line of October 24, 1939. This item was captioned "Columnist Discovers Cult That Insults Intelligence". The newspaper item was submitted to the Butte Office under date of December 9, 1939, by Special Agent JOHN F. TROST by a memorandum wherein he advised that the mentioned news item was referred to him by the Postmaster at Missoula, Montana, STEPHEN NEUREMBERG, and that the Postmaster had advised that a local chapter of the organization existed in Missoula and held their meetings at the Masonic Temple.

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-33413-1436

62-5-6722-88X

INDEXED RECORDED

JUN 16 1943

No investigation of the above mentioned organization was made at that time and no complaints have ever been received in the Butte Field division since that date.

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

51 JUN 15 1943

It is believed that the activities of ONI in making this investigation are outside their jurisdiction and are a violation of the Delimitation Agreement, in view of which the Bureau is requested to advise the Seattle Office whether or not this matter should be taken up with the Seattle Office of ONI.

Very truly yours

KENNETH LOGAN
SAC

KL:LB

cc Seattle

JVM:HEW

62-56722-88X1

~~100-331658~~

RECORD

Date: May 26, 1943

To: SAC, Salt Lake City

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: I AM GROUP OF SALT LAKE CITY

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent A. Cecil Drury, dated April 15, 1943, at Salt Lake City, captioned as above.

The Los Angeles Office is directed to report the salient facts concerning this subject organization, and Salt Lake City should, in the absence of any specific facts which would indicate un-American activities of this group in Salt Lake City, RUC the case to the office of origin.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

CC - Los Angeles

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 10.
MAY 26 1943 P.M.

8 1943

60

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FILE NO. 100-4519

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH | 4/15/43 | 1/11,12,19,20/43 | A. CECIL DRURY DF |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| I AM GROUP OF SALT LAKE CITY | INTERNAL SECURITY - G |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Information received that a subversive group called the I Am Group, has been meeting at the home of RAY KING HUGHES of 617 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. Credit and criminal records and neighborhood investigation of HUGHES negative.

- P - 12/2/92 508210/mf

DETAILS:

Inasmuch as it is known that this organization has been particularly active in Los Angeles, that office is being designated as the office of origin unless instructions to the contrary are received.

This investigation is predicated upon a complaint from a Mrs. GUS P. BACKMAN of 629 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah, who advised that she believed Nazi meetings were being held each Sunday morning at 617 East South Temple, Salt Lake City. The complaint stated that she was quite certain that it was not a religious group that used this house; instead, she felt certain that it was a Nazi organization. The Informant advised that Dr. M. G. KUHRE of 1425 Circleway, Salt Lake City, Utah, could give more information about this house. Special Agent JOHN TAYLOR WILLIAMS (A)who received this information stated that the City Directorylists a RAY KING HUGHES at 617 East South Temple, and a telephone call to the HUGHES residence

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: Jay C Newman SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

62-56722-2

RECORDED & INDEXED

6 APR 27 1943

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5 - Salt Lake City

C. I. F.

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established that meetings are held each Sunday morning and each evening during the week by a religious organization known as the I Am Group of Salt Lake City.

Mrs. GUS P. BACKMAN was contacted by the writer for any additional information that she might have. She could give little information except that these meetings started sometime last summer and there are large meetings held every Sunday. Beyond this, she could not give additional information.

Mrs. M. G. KUHRE of 1425 Circleway, Salt Lake City, Utah, stated that the people that attended these meetings seemed to be a hard-working middle class type of person. She was of the opinion that these meetings had been going on regularly for three or four months.

At the Police Department, State Bureau of Identification, and Sheriff's Office, all of Salt Lake City, there was no record as to RAY KING HUGHES.

Records of the Credit Bureau, Salt Lake City, reflected that HUGHES had been employed as a purchasing agent by the United States Forestry Service at Provo, Utah, at 18 West First North.

Mr. H. A. CHEASEMAN, Manager of the United States Forestry Service at Provo, Utah, stated that the Subject had worked under him for a number of years, and that his employment record was good. Mr. CHEASEMAN stated that HUGHES resigned in October, 1940.

HUGHES is presently employed at the Professional Pharmacy, Salt Lake City, Utah, Mr. MELVIN MEMMOTT, Pharmacist, stated that he could give no information as to HUGHES' background as HUGHES had only been employed there for a short time.

At FELTMAN and CURME, Mr. ED F. SCHAUER, Manager, stated that RAY KING HUGHES had worked for him from April, 1942, to the end of December of the same year. He stated that Mr. HUGHES was a loyal American as far as he knew. He did state that Mr. HUGHES had been in Los Angeles about two or three years ago and presently was interested in some mining company.

Mrs. G. PAUL SMITH of 27 H Street, which is near the location where these meetings are held, could give no information as to the type of meeting, except that they were of a religious nature and held at Mr. HUGHES' home.

- PENDING -

- UNDEVELOPED LEADS -

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION:

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Will advise the Salt Lake City Office of pertinent information concerning subject organization and suggest any investigation in the Salt Lake City office which might be of assistance to Los Angeles Office in connection therewith.

THE SALT LAKE CITY FIELD DIVISION:

AT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Will follow the activities of subject organization in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Best Available Copy

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT [redacted] FILE NO. [redacted]

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH | 6/18/43 | 1/11,12,19,22/43 | A. CECIL [redacted] |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| I AM CULT OF SALT LAKE CITY | [redacted] - C |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Information received that a subversive group called the I Am Group, has been meeting at the home of [redacted] at 617 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. Credit and criminal records and satisfactory investigation of [redacted] negative.

- 7 -

[redacted]: Inasmuch as it is known that this organization has been particularly active in Los Angeles, that office is being designated as the office of origin unless instructions to the contrary are received.

This investigation is predicated upon a complaint from a Mrs. [redacted] of 623 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah, who advised that she believed that meetings were being held each Sunday morning at 617 East South Temple, Salt Lake City. The complaint stated that she was quite certain that it was not a religious group that used this house; instead, she felt certain that it was a Nazi organization. She informally advised that Mrs. [redacted] of 1425 Circleway, Salt Lake City, Utah, could give more information about this house. Special Agent [redacted] WILLIAMS (A)[redacted] received this information stated that the city directory lists a [redacted] at 617 East South Temple, and a telephone call to the [redacted] residence

| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

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3 - Salt Lake City

12/21/42

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(typed June 9, 1943)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/4/12 BY SP6CTJ/ks

SAC, El Paso

RE: "I AM" CULT,
A Religious Organization;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C;
SEDITION

RECEIVED FBI JUN 12 1943 PM
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the closing report of Special Agent Edward P. Ferris, dated June 25, 1942, at El Paso, Texas, containing information relative to the captioned organization.

In recent weeks the Bureau has received a limited amount of information relative to the activities of this religious Cult indicating that it may possibly be engaging in subversive activities. Since very little is known of the current policies and activities of this group, it is desired that your Office as well as the Offices receiving copies of this letter check its indices and contact sources of information and informants in order to determine the extent of its activities in each Field Office district.

It is desired that the El Paso Office be considered origin, inasmuch as the headquarters are located at Santa Fe, New Mexico. Copies of all reports submitted by auxiliary Offices should be designated for the El Paso Office.

RECEIVED FBI JUN 10 6 35 PM '43
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

For the assistance of your Office as well as those involved in the investigation of the instant matter there are being enclosed with each Office's copy of the instant letter copies of a summary of the information available on the "I Am" Movement.

It is desired that the Bureau's request in this matter be handled without unnecessary delay.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 15 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

57 JUN 16 1943

Boston Los Angeles Portland San Francisco
Chicago New Haven Salt Lake City Seattle
Denver Phoenix San Diego

EP. BROWN: AJB
6-10-43
62-56722

SP8 BTD/mg
12/28

RE: "I AM" MOVEMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

The "I Am" Movement was conducted as a partnership by Guy W. Ballard and Edna W. Ballard, under the name of the St. Germain Press, from its organization some time in 1934 or 1935 until March 2, 1938, when the St. Germain Foundation was formed by Guy W. Ballard, Edna W. Ballard and Harry N. Rogers, who became charter members. The St. Germain Foundation was to be a nonprofit corporation. Briefly the purposes of this corporation were to teach by word of mouth directly, through the radio and phonograph records, by the printed word and by other available means the doctrines of the "I Am" Movement. On March 24, 1938, the articles of incorporation for the St. Germain Foundation were filed with the Secretary of the State of Illinois. The first officers were Guy W. Ballard, President; Harry N. Rogers, Vice President and Mrs. Edna W. Ballard, Secretary-Treasurer. These individuals were also the first Directors of this organization. On July 18, 1939, Harry N. Rogers resigned as Vice President and member of the Board of Directors of this organization and on October 4, 1939, his resignation was accepted and Paul A. Potter was elected to succeed Rogers. On January 19, 1940, Donald Ballard was elected to succeed his father, Guy W. Ballard, who died on December 29, 1939.

On December 11, 1939, a subscription agreement was entered into, proposing to organize the St. Germain Press, Inc., under the laws of the State of Illinois, for the purpose of printing, publishing, buying and selling books, pamphlets, letters, cards, literature, periodicals, publications, printed matter and music and art work. The subscribers were Louise Majerus; Cecile J. Majerus and Paul A. Potter. On December 12, 1939, a certificate of incorporation was issued by the Secretary of the State of Illinois, authorizing the St. Germain Press, Inc., to commence business. The incorporators were the first Directors and assigned their stock in this corporation to Edna W. Ballard and Guy W. Ballard. On January 19, 1940, the officers of this corporation were elected and Donald Ballard was elected President; Paul A. Potter, Vice President and Edna W. Ballard, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Bureau began receiving various complaints in January, 1940, to the effect that the "I Am" Movement was engaged in activities against the best interests of this country. Also numerous letters were received supporting this organization and claiming it to be an organization thoroughly loyal to this country. There were complaints that this group was Communistic and on the other hand allegations that the Communists were attempting to down the organization. Members of this Movement were accused of being pro-Nazi and it was stated that the Ballards were continually seeing Nazi, Russian and Fascist spies. It was also alleged that this organization objected to conscription and that it had created the impression that it was working closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with un-American activities.

This organization was investigated by the Post Office Department in connection with a possible violation of the Mail Fraud Statutes. The accounting

Mr. Tolson
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 18 1943
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8 BTD/mg
ON 6/28/93 per NSA letter dated 4/11/93

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work in the investigation was performed by Agents of this Bureau. As a result of the investigation by the Post Office Department an indictment was returned by a Federal Grand Jury at Los Angeles, California, on August 28, 1940, against twenty-four individuals. This indictment alleged that a large number of people were defrauded through false representations, pretenses and promises. It is stated that the victims purchased books, magazines, pictures, articles and other paraphernalia offered for sale by the subjects of this indictment and were induced to become followers and accept the teachings and movement sponsored by the defendants, commonly known as the "I Am" Movement, and were induced to give, send and pay money and give other things of value to the defendants because of these false representations.

This indictment alleged that Guy W. Ballard, who died at Los Angeles, California, on December 29, 1939, was represented by the individuals indicted to have been selected by the alleged "ascended master," St. Germain, as a divine messenger and it was stated that the words of the alleged divine entity, St. Germain, would be transmitted to mankind through the medium of the said Guy W. Ballard. The indictment further alleged that Edna W. Ballard (wife of Guy W. Ballard) and Donald Ballard (son of Guy W. Ballard) were stated to have been selected as divine messengers through whom the words of the alleged "ascended masters," including St. Germain, would be communicated to mankind under the teachings commonly known as the "I Am" Movement. It was stated that these individuals represented that the various books which were written by Guy W. Ballard were dictated by St. Germain, and sold under such representations. It was further stated that Guy W. Ballard, during his lifetime, Edna W. Ballard and Donald Ballard had claimed to have attained a supernatural state of immortality, which condition enabled them and each of them to be entirely free from ailments common to man and to conquer disease, death, old age, poverty and misery, which power or condition and supernatural state the defendants and each of them represented they could and would transmit to others willing to pay therefor or willing to part with other things of value therefor to the defendants. It was alleged that all these representations were made for the false and fraudulent purpose of securing money or other things of value from the persons intended to be defrauded and that the individuals indicted knew the representations to be false. (62-56722-59)

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, nothing is definitely known concerning St. Germain's parents and birthplace. However, the common version is that he was a Portuguese Jew. He was a musical composer and a capable violinist. He pretended to have the secret for removing flaws from diamonds and to be able to transmute metals. The most remarkable of his professional discoveries was a liquid which would prolong life and by which he asserted he lived 2,000 years. he claimed (62-56722-71)

Although twenty-four individuals were indicted, on November 4, 1940, the indictments against fourteen of them were nolle prossed. The indictment against one of the individuals was dismissed, three of the remaining individuals were acquitted and the jury, having disagreed as to the others, was dismissed as

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January 20, 1941. On April 12, 1941, new indictments were returned as to the remaining six defendants and in a trial, extending from December 2, 1941, through January 31, 1942, Mrs. Edna F. Ballard and her son, Donald Ballard, were found guilty, while the other defendants were acquitted. On February 17, 1942, Mrs. Ballard was given a suspended sentence of one year, fined $3,000.00 and placed on probation for one year, while her son on the same date was given a one year suspended sentence, fined $400.00 and placed on probation for one year.

(62-56722-59 and 76)

In the early part of February, 1942, Mrs. Nick Abbie, 59 Scott Street, San Francisco, California, advised the Bureau's Office in that city that she had received a letter from the headquarters of the "I Am" organization, informing her that the entire Pacific Coast was to be bombed on February 12, 1942. Inquiries in Los Angeles at the time revealed that Edna F. Ballard, her son, Donald, and approximately three hundred disciples had left Los Angeles shortly after the conclusion of the mail fraud case and were alleged to have gone to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to start a new "I Am" school. Charles Sindelar, owner and operator of the Sindelar Studios, 2690 Hoover Street, Los Angeles, California, and publisher of the monthly magazine known as the "Voice of the I Am," when interviewed concerning the rumor that the West Coast would be bombed on February 12, 1942, advised that none of the leaders of the "I Am" Movement were responsible for its circulation and said that if such a rumor were circulated, it had probably emanated from enemies of the "I Am" Movement. Sindelar did state, however, that he had heard a rumor to the effect that California was to be placed under martial law and that "I Am" members were to be placed in concentration camps. This latter rumor was said to have been circulated as a result of certain statements made by the Government's counsel during the above mentioned mail fraud case. It was further stated by Sindelar that he had called a meeting of over one hundred "I Am" students, who were still in Los Angeles, on February 10, 1942, and they all stated they had not heard the bombing rumor.

(62-56722-62 and 77)

During the course of this investigation in Los Angeles in the early part of February, 1942, it was determined that many of the published statements of the "I Am" Movement and the oral statements made by Mrs. Ballard had condemned President Roosevelt for permitting an investigation to be made of the "I Am" organization by the Post Office Department and for permitting the prosecution of the leaders. All members of the Movement were stated to wear an American flag in their buttonholes or affixed to their dresses. (62-56722-77)

Investigation by the Bureau's El Paso Office at Santa Fe, New Mexico, revealed that an informant advised the "I Am" Movement was a Communist group moving to the interior of the country after being advised to do so by the Communists on the West Coast, inasmuch as they, the Communists, were organized for the express purpose of taking command of railroads and blocking highways in order to stop travel and transportation of troops. Exhaustive investigation at the time in Santa Fe, New Mexico, failed to reveal the source of this rumor as well as the rumor that the West Coast would be bombed on February 12, 1942. However, it was ascertained from a confidential source that Mrs. Ballard had

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CONFIDENTIAL

made the statement after Pearl Harbor, "Now my work in Los Angeles is done." The informant was unable to explain whether Mrs. Ballard was making this statement in connection with subversive activities or whether she was referring to her conviction in a Los Angeles court. (62-56722-65, 69 and 71)

Mrs. Edna M. Ballard was interviewed at the Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, Colorado, concerning the rumors mentioned above and she advised that the decrees of the "I Am" Cult had always condemned Communism; that they had always fought to make the American people conscious of the evils of Communism. Mrs. Ballard claimed her organization was a patriotic group and that in all their meetings Americanism was taught. She emphatically denied creating the rumors mentioned and stated that she was unable to even give an indication of who was responsible for starting them. (62-56722-66)

Under date of February 12, 1942, the Bureau's Denver Office received information to the effect that a group of approximately fifteen members of the "I Am" Movement had arrived at Boulder, Colorado, with considerable equipment, apparently for the purpose of mining in that vicinity. It was also alleged that they were in possession of numerous firearms and considerable ammunition. Inquiry at the time by the Bureau's Denver Office reflected no activities on the part of this group that warranted further investigation. (62-56722-70)

From a confidential source it was ascertained in March, 1942, that Joseph Hofstetter, a well-known inventor, had perfected a small turbine which would enable a submarine to operate on a very small amount of fuel, using electrical energy in its stead. It was said that the plans of this invention were placed in the possession of Mrs. Ballard because of the fact that Hofstetter and his wife were under the influence of the leaders of the "I Am" Movement. Inquiry at Los Angeles, California, revealed that Hofstetter formerly resided at 7021 Franklin Avenue and that he had moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, with the "I Am" Cult. Robert E. Gross also of Los Angeles, California, was interviewed by Bureau Agents because of suspicious correspondence he had carried on with Donald Ballard. Gross explained he had frequently written Ballard concerning guns and ammunition, inasmuch as he wanted to remain in contact with Ballard in order to sell him an airplane. No evidence of subversive connections was developed on Gross. (62-56722-82)

A confidential informant advised in June of 1942 that the subject organization is sometimes known as the "Purple Cult" and was stated to be a religious movement which has four subversive aspects. First, members are urged to will that St. Germain will blast the President from the earth. Second, members are told that no oath is binding. Third, leaders urge members not to buy defense bonds. Fourth, members are urged not to register for the draft. It was further stated that this Movement also teaches the doctrine of reincarnation and that members can get any material object, such as money et cetera, by wilful thinking. It was further said that meetings achieve a frenzied mass hypnotism. (62-56722-84)

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A confidential informant [redacted] "I Am" Cult residing [redacted] advised that the principal topic of discussion at meetings was the obtaining of money by means of love gift boxes. This informant also furnished the pledge used by "I Am" members who joined what is known as the 100% "I Am" Class. This pledge is as follows: b7D

"I desire to so LIVE that the Ascended Masters CAN work through me at any moment! To be worthy of this Great Privilege I MUST put into practice and LIVE the suggestions which They make. I know that by so doing I too will gain My Eternal Freedom and Ascension. I am thoroughly aware that these are, in brief:

"THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME". Bible. Ist Commandment. 1936 Sep. Voice P4.

"Every individual's first duty is Adoration and Love to the 'One Mighty I AM Presence, to gain his Mastery, Eternal Freedom and make his Ascension as soon as possible'. Saint Germain and Jesus. The Magic Presence, and Discourses.

"Whatever your attention is upon is your God, for there your energy is flowing and your energy is your life. 'Saint Germain'. 1936 Sep. Voice P 4. Read P 302-3 Discourses.

"I BID the students everywhere, with all of the Love at My Command, to FORGET EVERYTHING ELSE YOU HAVE EVER STUDIED. STAND ONE HUNDRED PER CENT IN ALL OF YOUR 'MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE,' AND THE 'I AM DISCOURSES' by SAINT GERMAIN, and you will have such Freedom, such Joy, such Accomplishment, that will forever dissolve all doubt and fear from your consciousness. When such Great Freedom is at your door, just for your acceptance and application, can you understand how great is Our Love and Desire to fully enable you to grasp these simple majestic Laws, that you may have the same Freedom which we experience? However, THIS CAN ONLY COME THROUGH YOUR JOYFUL WILLING ACCEPTANCE AND APPLICATION OF THESE WORTH WHILE LAWS." Jesus. 1936 Feb. Voice, P 5.

"Consequently I have absolutely severed ALL connections with ALL Occult Orders, Spiritualism, and organizations that might divert my attention and possibly prevent me from STANDING ONE HUNDRED PER CENT WITH MY OWN 'MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE'.

"I shall Never Again have any thing to do with astrology, numerology, crystal-gazing, ouiji board, automatic writing, Tarot cards, mediums, and all such things.

"I shall Never Again use 'serums' - 'narcotics, alcohol, meat - all flesh foods - tobacco, excess sugar, excess salt, and strong coffee.' Magic Presence P 147-8. I shall not use garlic or onions,

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"knowing the Ascended Masters will not come near if I do. I will use diligently the Remedy, the Violet Consuming Flame of Divine Love, for these things, to cleanse and purify my Temple. Magic Presence P 149.

"I will refuse in the future to listen to any silly human gossip, criticism, condemnation and judgement of anything or about anybody. Instead I will call the Mighty I AM Presence into action to produce Its Perfection everywhere I move and in everything I do, so that Great Marvels and Mighty Miracles will take place. I absolutely 'refuse acceptance' of all human creation and limitation.

"I shall stand as if there were nothing else in the World and Universe but the 'I AM Presence'. Great Divine Director, 1936 Voice, P II-18.

"I shall keep my FEELINGS harmonized, 'no matter what the provocation!' Saint Germain. 1936 Sep. Voice P 15.

"I am aware that the Divine Creative sex force is to be used solely for providing a physical vehicle for a Brother seeking physical re-embodiment.

"I give ALL POWER to the I AM PRESENCE, which I AM, and I refuse with determination acceptance to anything else, ever again." Saint Germain. Discourses P 303. "I forever withdraw all power I have ever given to outer things, and stand serene in Thy Majestic Presence - Love, Wisdom and Power."

"There is only ONE DO IT that acts, Give It Full Freedom, Stand with IT and let IT act. There is No Other Power to act." P 180.

"I must call the Law of Forgiveness into action daily. 'I AM the Law of Forgiveness and Forgetfulness of All human creation, and the Consuming Flame of All inharmonious action and human consciousness.'

"I have read Unveiled Mysteries, the Magic Presence and 'I AM' Discourses by Godfre Ray King, and will endeavor to apply diligently the Truths therein given.

"I know that in the outer it is possible to deceive other Brothers but NOT God, the 'Mighty I Am Presence' or the Ascended Masters, whom I earnestly and sincerely desire to serve. I know that the Mighty Master Within is 'my Certain Victory'. My signature is my decree that I SHALL abide by and LIVE Their suggestions, and on this basis I desire to be a member of your 100% 'I AM' Class."

(62-56722-85 page 2)

An informant in [redacted] advised the Bureau that in soliciting pledges for war bonds and stamps he had contacted approximately four b7D

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[redacted] of the "I Am" Cult and in no instance had any of the "I Am" [redacted] themselves for even a defense stamp. The informant stated that [redacted] members had used the excuse that it was not their war and for [redacted] not pledging to purchase war bonds and stamps. Investi[redacted], however, failed to substantiate such statements had been [redacted] the "I Am" Cult. (62-56722-85 page 4)

Information was received by the Bureau's Seattle Office to the effect that the "I Am" Cult started in Seattle, Washington, as a patriotic activity. However, after the Government started investigating them the members were stated to have been encouraged to express great hatred for the Government and for President Roosevelt because of this investigation. It was stated that the group began to profess that the "Antecedent Masters," of which Mrs. Ballard was the only living representative, were destined to rule the world and that the "Antecedent Masters" would eventually take over the Government of the United States. Subsequent to the initiation of the investigation of the "I Am" Movement the organization became, according to the informant, more violent in its denunciation of the Government and called down in its decrees the wrath of the "I Am" presence upon those persons who persecuted the organization. It was stated that the various groups would gather in a room and under the leadership of the group leader repeat over and over the leader's decrees, which were sold to each member of the organization, until they worked themselves into a frenzy through the influence of mass psychology.

Advice was further received to the effect that the organization's leaders insisted that the Cult's activities become secret because they feared investigation by the Government. All persons entering meetings were forced to show their membership cards before they were admitted and Mrs. Ballard was stated to have told the members in the latter part of 1940 that if the Government succeeded, she would be put in jail and all the members would be put in concentration camps. This informant furnished a copy of a decree issued in September, 1942, and read by Mrs. Ballard at a meeting of the "I Am" Cult at Seattle, Washington. This decree read as follows:

> "Mighty 'I am' presence. Great hosts of 'Antecedent Masters' and all great cosmic beings; I refuse those indictments, that tax investigation, that citation all the plagiarism suit any longer, or, that draft for our American boys.
>
> "I am the presence which by the power of this light is your master! Be thou dissolved and confirmed by the power of light forever."

(62-56722-89 page 4)

Information was furnished the Bureau's Salt Lake City, Utah, Office in January, 1943, to the effect that meetings were being held at 617 East South Temple Street, Salt Lake City. It was believed by the informant that the group using the name "I Am" was a Nazi organization. However, inquiry by the Bureau's Salt Lake City Office revealed no specific indication of subversive activities on the part of this organization in that city.

(100-201658-2)

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Investigation in Chicago, Illinois, in the Spring of 1943 revealed that Edna Wheeler Ballard is also known as Joan of Arc and that she was married to one George Washington, who died in 1939. It was stated that the correct name of George Washington was Guy W. Ballard and that he was a former paper hanger of Newton, Kansas. Ballard was said to have given up this employment approximately twenty-five years ago and formed the religion known as "I Am." Ballard and his wife were said to have claimed to be the reincarnation of Joan of Arc and George Washington and by thus representing themselves had secured large sums of money through the teaching of a doctrine that gifts of money and jewelry had mysterious healing effects. It was further ascertained that the Ballards were said to have promised to send the spirits of all the cattle killed in the Chicago Union Stockyards to the home of prospective litigants in order to forestall legal proceedings against them.

In April, 1943, it was reported that Mrs. Ballard was residing at 1620 or 1622 East 84th Place, Chicago, Illinois, and that her son Donald was in the Military Service, his exact location being unknown. The "I Am" Cult was at that time maintaining a reading room at 111 West Jackson Street, Chicago, Illinois, with Mrs. Paul Potter as the "messenger in charge." The Chicago mailing address was determined to be Post Office Box 113, while the address in Los Angeles was listed as Post Office Box 423. However, it was said that the headquarters of the organization are at the present time in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

An informant advised the Bureau's Chicago Office in November, 1942, that she had been connected with the "I Am" Movement for a number of years but had terminated her membership in April, 1939, because she decided the organization was not on the level. This informant stated that the organization paraded under a patriotic and religious front but that she was convinced from information she had obtained both through her activities as a worker and also through friends that the organization was subversive in its work. She advised that at its secret meetings a religious process known as a "blasting decree" had been directed at the war effort generally, the Selective Service Act and the war bond campaign in particular. It was related in addition that a school for beginners in the Movement was conducted at 3952 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and that the organization has branches in numerous large cities, some of which were Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver, San Diego, Santa Fe, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, New York and Washington.

(62-56722-90)

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

407 U. S. Court House
Seattle, Washington
May 5, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/21/82 BY SP6 BJD/MJ

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CLASS. BY SP6 BJD/MJ

DATE OF REVIEW 12/21/82

Director, FBI

RE: OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
"I AM" CULT - SEDITION

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated March 8, 1943.

Discreet inquiry at the Office of the District Intelligence Officer, Seattle, Washington reveals that Ensign H. B. ANNIS conducted two interviews at Missoula, Montana which are reflected in a memorandum for the file dated January 28, 1943. Interviews were conducted with Mr. JAMES M. JENSEN, Palace Hotel, Missoula, Montana and LUCIEN JOSEPH CROONENBURGH, 320 Stevens Street, Missoula, Montana. The interviews were conducted in the course of an investigation of an applicant for the Navy Department at Washington, D. C. whose name is not given in the memorandum.

The information furnished by Mr. JENSEN was to the effect that his wife was a member of the "I AM" Cult and that he was having domestic difficulties because of her connection with this organization. Mr. JENSEN stated that the organization was fanatical in character and could easily be used for subversive activities. However, he was not aware of any subversive activity carried on by the group according to Ensign ANNIS. When Mr. JENSEN was questioned about the subversive character of the organization, he stated that he believed it was subversive because it tended to break up families in that the members believed co-habitation was not necessary for the purpose of having children and that concentration in groups would produce this desired result. There is no other indication in the memorandum concerning this interview reflecting subversive tendencies on the part of the organization.

EX-145 RECORDED & INDEXED 62-56722-89

Mrs. CROONENBURGH advised that she was a member of the "I AM" Cult at Missoula, Montana. She stated that the organization was not political in character but was a kind of religion and was not subversive in any respect. She advised that the following persons in Missoula, Montana are members of this organization:

Mrs. GENE BABBET, now in California. Exact address not given.
Mrs. OLE ANDERSON, Target Range Road.
Mrs. ROSE KING, 501 Wilma Building
Mrs. J. M. JENSEN, 224 South Fifth Street
Mrs. GERBER, Mrs. BROWN, Mrs. VAN ETTEN, Unity Leader and
Mrs. STEVE NEUREMBERG.

SAC Ltr Rec'd
cc w/attachments
5-9-43
EPB

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

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There is no address given for any of the last named individuals.

A review of the files of the District Intelligence Officer reflects that on April 11, 1941 a letter was addressed to Admiral FREEMAN, Commandant, Bremerton Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington by an individual who signed his name C. M. FALLON. This letter stated that an individual named JAMES CAHILL and one by the name of SAM McLAREN were members of the mystic Fifth Column known as the Purple Cult. It was reported in this letter that these individuals were employed by the Bremerton Navy Yard. A letter to the same effect which was addressed to the reporter of the Navy Board dated April 5, 1941 at Bremerton, Washington and signed C. M. CALLON (sic) was also in the Navy files. These letters were apparently typed on the same typewriter and the handwriting of the signature is very similar on both letters.

At this time the Navy requested information concerning the Purple Cult from the 11th Naval District because of information in these letters to the effect that the organization was located at Los Angeles. The 11th Naval District advised the Navy to contact Mr. D. D. FOWLER, 1808 24th Avenue North, Seattle, Washington concerning this organization and indicated that it was identical with the "I AM" Cult.

Mrs. D. D. FOWLER was interviewed by an Ensign in the District Intelligence Office at Seattle, Washington and she advised that she was one of the original members and was the original organizer of the "I AM" Cult in Seattle. She stated she became aware of the subversive character of the organization and got out of it prior to the time of interview in April, 1941. She advised both CAHILL and McLAREN were members and that CAHILL was the leader of the men's group of the organization. She furnished a list of 225 members of the organization as of January, 1941 when she left the organization and she stated that many Silvershirts were members of the "I AM" Cult.

When she was questioned regarding the subversive character of the organization, she stated that the movement was dangerous and that the members advocate an overthrow of the government by force and violence so that they may take over the country themselves. She advised that a book written by GERALD B. BRYAN entitled "PSYCHIC DICTATORSHIP IN AMERICA" or, The Story of the Purple Cult and sub-titled "ST. GERMAIN'S MIGHTY I AM EXPOSED" and published by the Truth Research Publications, 456 Southwestern Avenue, Los Angeles, California was a true picture of the organization as far as her knowledge was concerned.

The files of the District Intelligence Office did not reflect the action taken by CAHILL and McLAREN who were employed by the Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington.

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Mrs. D. D. FOWLER, who refused to give her first and middle name, 1808 24th Avenue North, Seattle, Washington; Telephone East 0042, was interviewed by Special Agent FRANCIS E. BRIGHT of the Seattle Field Division and she advised that the organization of the "I AM" Cult in Seattle started out as a patriotic activity. However, after the government began investigating them, the members were encouraged to express great hatred for the government and for President ROOSEVELT because of this investigation. She advised the group began to profess that the "Antecedent Masters" of which Mrs. BALLARD was the only living representative were destined to rule in the world and that the "Antecedent Masters would eventually take over the government of the people of the United States. However, she had no indication that the change of the present form of government was to take place by force and violence in 1940 prior to the Presidential Election of that year. The group sent out a telegram to all its members through the various group leaders urging them to vote for WILLKIE.

Subsequent to this time the organization became more violent in denouncing the government for its investigation of them and called down in its decrees the wrath of the "I AM" presence upon those persons who persecuted the organization.

In describing the methods in which these decrees were handled, Mrs. BALLARD advised that the various groups would gather in the room and under the leadership of a group leader repeat over and over the leader's decree which were sold to each member by the organization until they worked themselves into a frenzy and through the influence of mass psychology "got on a sort of emotional drunk".

The organization leaders insisted that the organization become a secret organization because they feared the investigation by the government that they made all persons entering meetings show their membership cards before they were permitted to go into the meeting and Mrs. BALLARD in the latter part of 1940 told the members that if the government succeeded she would be put in jail and all the members would be put in concentration camps. This was done Mrs. FOWLER stated in order that the members would keep quiet in the event they were investigated by the government investigators.

Mrs. FOWLER stated that since the time she had left the organization she had been cursed by the group and that in the last trial of Mrs. BALLARD she had testified at Los Angeles although she was reluctant to do so because some of the members were so fanatical. She stated that she had learned through persons in contact with the organization from time to time that the organization was very much opposed to the draft and had issued decrees against it. She had a copy of a decree which was put out in September, 1942 and read by Mrs. BALLARD at a meeting of the "I AM" Cult at Seattle, Washington which reads as follows:

"Mighty 'I am' presence. Great hosts of 'Antecedent Masters' and all great cosmic beings; I refuse those indictments, that tax investigation, that citation all the plagiarism suit any longer, or, that draft for our American boys.

"I am the presence which by the power of this light is your master! Be thou dissolved and confirmed by the power of light forever."

Mrs. FOWLER recalled that in December of 1940 BILL CASSIER who was a messenger or national officer of the Cult had come to Seattle and had told the group that they might be sent to concentration camps if the government succeeded in their investigation. She said this person was located in Los Angeles. She advised that another messenger, PAUL STICKELL, had told her at one time just before she got out of the organization that she should get groups of members she could trust and name the persons who were investigating them and President ROOSEVELT, in their decrees urging their consumption by fire through the Mighty "I am" Cult. STICKELL, she said, came from Los Angeles to Seattle.

She advised that she believed CAHILL and McLAREN had been fired because of their activities of the "I am" Cult and were no longer employed at the Puget Sound Navy Yard. However, she stated they were presently employed at the Todd Seattle Dry Dock and that CAHILL was presently active in the organization as was McLAREN. She stated that CAHILL was the leader of the minute men which was the men's organization of the "I am" Cult.

She advised various members of this organization had influential positions and she recalled that a Mrs. SMITH had told her that a Miss SPEAR who worked for the United States Attorney at Seattle, Washington had told Mrs. SMITH that if the organization was being investigated at Seattle, Washington, she would learn of this fact through the position she held in that office and would keep the organization advised of the progress of the investigation. Mrs. FOWLER stated that she did not know Mrs. SMITH'S first name and that she did not know her former address at Seattle, Washington. She stated that Mrs. SMITH was presently somewhere in California but had been a member of the organization.

An examination of the list of members previously furnished by Mrs. FOWLER to the office of Naval Intelligence at Seattle, Washington reflects that the following persons named "SMITH" are members:

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ELIZABETH SMITH, 1205 Stewart Street, Seneca 9812.
ELVA SMITH, c/o JOHN J. SULLIVAN, Smith Tower, Seattle, Wash.
FRANK A. SMITH, 1912 Franklin, Capital 2353.

This list also reflects that the organization has a member by the name of ANNA M. SPEARS, 516 East Union Street. The City Directory at Seattle, Washington indicates that Mr. FRANK A. SMITH is employed in the Purchasing Department of the Albers Milling Company and that his wife's name is BESSIE F. SMITH and that they reside at 1912 Franklin Avenue.

The 1942 Directory reflects an ELVA E. SMITH who is a clerk for the Nakat Packing Company and is residing at 2415 39th N. E.

The City Directory reflects a number of ELIZABETH SMITHS but none located at 1205 Stewart Street. This directory also reflects that ANNA M. SPEARS is employed as a clerk at the United States Attorney's office and is residing at 516 East Union Street, Apartment #310.

There is no other information in the files of the 13th Naval District reflecting information concerning local activities of this group. However, there are numerous communications indicating summaries of investigations conducted of the "I Am" Cult in other Naval Districts which communications were furnished to the Local FBI Office and are generally based on Bureau Reports concerning the instant organization.

No investigation of this group will be conducted at Seattle because it is not known what previous investigation was conducted as a basis for the decision of the Department not to prosecute this group for sedition. It is suggested that if further investigation is desired in view of the information furnished by Mrs. FOWLER that this office be furnished with sufficient information to avoid duplication of investigation by other field offices.

Very truly yours,

H. B. Fletcher

H. B. FLETCHER
Special Agent in Charge

FEB:CK
100-94

CC - Los Angeles
El Paso
Butte

AIR MAIL, SPECIAL DELIVERY

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| Origin EL PASO, TEXAS | | | File No. 100-6973 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Report Made At<br>Chicago, Illinois | Date<br>5/20/43 | Period<br>11/3/42<br>5/15/43 | Report Made By<br>JOHN J. BRACKEN JJB:ERJ |
| Title<br>"I AM" CULT, a religious organization | | | Character<br>INTERNAL SECURITY-C<br>SEDITION |

Synopsis of Facts:

KEY FIGURE

PAUL H. STICKELL born 12/20/89 at Williamson, Pennsylvania. Occupations listed as traveling preacher, educator, patriotic lecturer, and lawyer. EDNA WHEELER BALLARD and GUY BALLARD reported to be founders of "I AM" Cult, which maintains a reading room at 111 W. Jackson, Chicago. Activities and preachings of "I AM" Cult set forth.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent E. P. FERRIS at El Paso, Texas, dated February 21, 1942.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10/8/82 BY SP8 BJD/ds

DETAILS: At Chicago, Illinois

In accordance with the national defense program, this matter was referred by letter dated March 24, 1943, to the Chicago Police Department for investigation. By letter dated April 28, 1943, the Chicago Police Department stated that investigation of this matter had been conducted by Officer MAURICE O'SHEA, who reported as follows:

PAUL H. STICKELL

A check of the records of Local Draft Board No. 91, located at 1547 East 79th Street, disclosed that PAUL H. STICKELL registered with Local Draft Board No. 2-B, Hartford, Connecticut. The person listed as the one who would always know the address of STICKELL was LOUISE MAJERUS, 1620 East 84th Place, Chicago.

Approved & Forwarded: S. J. Drayton SAC

62-5-6752-96

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2 - Seattle
2 - New Haven
3 - Chicago

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EX-32

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Chicago File No. 100-6973

A check of the records division of the Chicago Police Department failed to disclose the name of PAUL H. STICKELL. Investigation in the neighborhood of 1620 East 84th Place failed to reveal any person familiar with STICKELL.

A check of the records of Hill's Reports, Inc., a credit agency with offices at 209 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, disclosed newspaper clippings reflected the following information:

PAUL H. STICKELL was indicted in Los Angeles, California, for using the mails to defraud early in 1942. His former occupation was that of a lawyer; and his present occupations include traveling preacher, educator, and patriotic lecturer. He spends most of his time in travel. PAUL H. STICKELL was born in Williamson, Pennsylvania, on December 20, 1889. His education consisted of eight years of grammar school and three years of college. He is described as being five feet, nine inches in height, two hundred five pounds in weight, having blue eyes, gray hair, and a ruddy complexion.

EDNA WHEELER BALLARD

A check of the records of Hill's Reports, Inc., a credit agency with offices at 209 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, disclosed newspaper clippings which reflected the following information:

EDNA WHEELER BALLARD, also known as "JOAN OF ARC," was married to one GEORGE WASHINGTON, who died in 1940. The correct name of GEORGE WASHINGTON is GUY BALLARD, a former paper hanger of Newton, Kansas. He gave up this employment more than twenty-five years ago and founded a religion known as the "I AM" Cult. EDNA WHEELER BALLARD and GUY BALLARD obtained large sums of money from their followers through the teaching of a doctrine that gifts of money and jewelry and clothes had a mysterious healing effect. They also claimed to be the reincarnation of JOAN OF ARC and GEORGE WASHINGTON, respectively. The income from this religious teaching is reported to have been in the neighborhood of two million dollars. On the occasions when the BALLARDS were threatened with litigation they promised to send the spirits of all the cattle killed in the Chicago Union Stock Yards to the home of the prospective litigants, stating that the latter would be haunted by the spirits of those cattle. It was reported that those threats were sufficient to stay any litigation against the BALLARDS.

EDNA WHEELER BALLARD and her son, DONALD BALLARD, were indicted for fraudulent use of the mails and upon conviction MRS. BALLARD was sentenced to one year in jail and received a fine of $8,000. DONALD BALLARD was sentenced to thirty days in jail and was fined $500. It is reported that MRS. BALLARD spends the major portion of her time in Los Angeles, California. In April, 1943, she was residing in Chicago at 1620 or 1622 E. 84th Place. DONALD BALLARD is presently in military service, his exact location being unknown. The "I AM" Cult maintains a reading room at 111 West Jackson, Chicago. MRS. PAUL POTTER is the "Messenger in Charge" and her associates

are LOUISE MAJERUS and CECELIA MAJERUS, both of whom reside at 1620 East 84th Place, Chicago.

MRS. ANNA O'DONNELL, 1619 East 84th Street, stated that MRS. BALLARD is very seldom in Chicago. Her son DONALD formerly attended the Morgan Park Military Academy, but he has not been seen by MRS. O'DONNELL for quite some time. MRS. O'DONNEL has never heard of PAUL H. STICKELL. Present occupants of 1620 East 84th Place are two women named MAJERUS. MRS. O'DONNELL further stated that she had never heard or seen anything which would create the impression with her that either the BALLARDS or the MAJERUS' were Communists.

MRS. CATHERINE SMITH, 1642 East 84th Place, stated that she know very little about the occupants of 1620 East 84th Place, as they kept very much to themselves.

MRS. NILS HOLM, 1619 East 84th Place, stated that she had attended one of the meetings of the "I AM" Cult. She related that the meeting is all about God and the Bible and that every so often the expression "I am" was used. MRS. HOLM was under the impression that MRS. BALLARD now resides in California, but stated that whenever she visits at 1620 East 84th Place she drives up in a very expensive car. MRS. HOLM had never seen or heard anything to indicate Communistic activity on the part of MRS. BALLARD or the MAJERUS' and stated that literature was printed in one of the bungalows at 1620 East 84th Place.

MRS. SADIE GEARY, 1619 East 84th Place, stated that the MAJERUS' presently reside at 1620 East 84th Place and that the building at 1622 East 84th Place is vacant at the present time. She related that the residents of 1620 East 84th Place are good neighbors, mind their own business and, in her opinion, are good Americans. She was of the impression that they are not linked up with the Communist Party and advised that no meetings are held at either 1620 or 1622 East 84th Place.

MRS. GRACE TURBYFILL, 1632 East 84th Place, stated that MRS. BALLARD was residing at 1620 East 84th Place in April of 1943 and that she comes there every year during Easter time. MRS. TURBYFILL advised that her husband was the Block Captain in the pertinent area, and that she had never noticed or heard of any un-American activity at either 1620 or 1622 East 84th Place. She further stated that the "I Am" Cult prints their literature in one of the bungalows at that residence, the presses being in the basement. An American Express Company truck visits the place every day and carries away the printed material.

Chicago File No. 100-6973

MRS. MARGARET FUERST, 1626 East 84th Place, stated that she had been residing at her present address for the past ten years and that her husband was a member of the American Legion. She advised that MRS. BALLARD spends very little of her time at the bungalows at 1620-22 East 84th Place. Her son, DONALD BALLARD, is in military service and is at the present time ill. MRS. FUERST did not know PAUL H. STICKELL. She further advised that it was her information that the residents of 1620-22 East 84th Place had subscribed for war bonds, were attending Block meetings, have a war garden, are good Americans, and are not engaged in Communistic work.

A check of the records of Hill's Reports, a credit agency with offices at 209 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago disclosed that the "I AM" movement is incorporated as the Saint Germaine Press, 105 West Adams Street, Chicago. The incorporators are L. MAJERUS, C. J. MAJERUS, and P. A. POTTER. The correspondents are Nash-Donnelly, 105 West Adams Street, Chicago. The Saint Germaine Press is engaged in the printing and selling of books, pamphlets, letters, and cards for the "ascended masters introduction to the mighty presence." Their Chicago address is listed as Post Office Box 1133, and their Los Angeles address is listed as Post Office Box 428.

A check of the following records was made, with negative results:

Bureau of Records, Chicago Police Department
Industrial Detail, Chicago Police Department
Dies Committee.

The New York Field Division by letter informed the Chicago Field Division as follows:

"On September 7, 1942, Informant T-1 stated that he was suspicious of the aims and objectives of a religious organization known as 'I Am Come!' which had been discussed with him very secretly by an optician who called at his store named DR. HARLAN P. BLAINE,

residing at 5224 I or First Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. He stated that one day while BLAINE was in the store on one of his calls, he suddenly stated as they were talking together that 'England is going to sink in the ocean and the United States will be conquered but that later will come out of it.' He has also stated that there will be a revolution. He further stated BLAINE was against ROOSEVELT, CHURCHILL and Russia. He is also against HITLER but not against the German people. He also made the remark that the red color was not known until a few thousand years ago and will disappear from the earth. T-1 believed this referred to the fate of Russia. Subject was also said to be anti-Semitic.

"The subject used these remarks as a build up for his subsequent production of literature on the religion referred to above, being very mysterious as to what it was and after having delayed sending the material until he had several more talks with T-1. In fact, informant stated that it had taken six to eight months to get the literature which subject for some reason stated he was not willing to send through the mails but which had to be delivered personally.

"Among the leaders of the religion were GODFRE RAYKING, LOTUS RAYKING, and DONALD RAYKING, all of Chicago where the literature was published by the Saint Germain Press, Post Office Box 1133, Chicago, Illinois. The headquarters of the organization were said to be at Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"According to BLAINE, meetings were said to be held all over the United States, including Denver, Memphis, Little Rock, and in the State of Oklahoma, and cards had to be presented for admittance. T-1 also called attention to the picture of 'The Christ' used by the organization which was represented by a woman with golden hair, (Teutonic) and magnetic eyes as HITLER is said to have.

"DR. BLAINE is described as fifty years old, 5' 10" tall, 150 pounds, gray hair and suave manner.

"The informant did not state that this was necessarily a case of subversive activity or more than a form of religion, but he did feel that the oddity of the approach used, the slowness and secrecy of explanation of the aims and objectives of the organization warranted investigation.

Chicago File No. 100-6973

"The publication containing the theme song of the organization is enclosed for the benefit of the Chicago Field Office."

On November 3, 1942, Mr. and Mrs. ARTHUR BLISS, 5337 North Kenmore, Chicago, personally appeared at the office of the Chicago Field Division and gave the following information:

MR. BLISS stated that he had been connected with the Chicago Board of Trade for the past twenty-five years. MRS. BLISS stated that she had been actively connected with the "I AM" movement for a number of years, but her membership had terminated in April of 1939, at which time she decided that the organization was not on the level. She advised that the organization paraded under a patriotic and religious front but that she is convinced from information which she has obtained both through her activities as a worker and also through friends that the organization is subversive in its work. In secret meetings of the organization a religious process known as a "blasting decree" has been directed at the war effort generally and the Selective Service Act and the war bonds campaign in particular. MRS. BLISS left some literature of the "I AM" Cult, which is being retained in the file of the Chicago Field Division. She related that she had been a government witness in a case under the mail fraud statute, which was prosecuted in the United States District Court in Los Angeles in December of 1941, in which case EDNA WHEELER BALLARD had been a defendant.

This case, MRS. BLISS informed, had been investigated by the Post Office inspectors and she had not at that time realized the subversive nature of the organization. MRS. BLISS went on to say that the Saint Germaine Press located at 1620 East 84th Place is the organization engaged in the distribution of the literature of the "I AM" movement. LOUISE MAJERUS of that address is one of the leaders in the movement and is in close contact with MRS. BALLARD. The organization has a meeting room open only to a selected few at 111 West Jackson (Austin Building), Chicago. MRS. BLISS was of the impression that MRS. D. FOWLER, residing at 1808 24th North, Seattle, Washington, had some personal knowledge of the subversive nature of the organization, and a lead is accordingly being set out for the Seattle Field Division to interview MRS. FOWLER. MRS. BLISS went on to say that a school for beginners in the movement is conducted at 3952 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, and that a MISS WALL is the leader of this school. The organization has headquarters in numerous large cities, some of which are Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver, Long Beach, San Diego, Santa Fe, Minneapolis, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, New York, and Washington.

Chicago File No. 100-6973

On April 22, 1943, Confidential Informant T-2 by letter informed the Chicago Field Division that [redacted] b7D

[redacted]

[redacted]

The schedule of weekly meetings held by the "I AM" sanctuary, 111 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, was enclosed with [redacted] of informant T-2. T-2 stated that the [redacted] was obtained from Confidential Informant T-3.

- PENDING -

Chicago File No. 100-6973

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE SEATTLE FIELD DIVISION:

At Seattle, Washington, will interview MRS. D. D. FOWLER, 1808 24th North, for information concerning the subversive nature of the "I AM" Cult.

THE CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION:

At Chicago, Illinois, will conduct investigation to ascertain the identity, background and activities of GODFRE RAY KING, LOTUS RAY KING, and DONALD RAY KING, all of Chicago.

Will check the records of the American Bar Association for information concerning PAUL H. STICKELL.

Will conduct further investigation concerning the printing establishment of the "I AM" Cult located at 1620 East 84th Place, and will obtain literature printed and disseminated at said establishment.

At Maywood, Illinois, will conduct investigation to ascertain the identity, background, and activities of "EVELYN K.", 513 Walnut Street, Maywood, Illinois.

THE NEW HAVEN FIELD DIVISION:

At Hartford, Connecticut, will check the records of Local Draft Board No. 2-B for background information concerning PAUL H. STICKELL.

- P E N D I N G -

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Informant T-1 is [redacted] b7D

Informant T-2 is [redacted]

Informant T-3 is [redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| Origin EL PASO, TEXAS | | | File No. 100-6973 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Report Made At<br>Chicago, Illinois | Date<br>5/20/43 | Period<br>11/3/42<br>5/15/43 | Report Made By<br>JOHN J. BRACKEN JJB:ERJ |
| Title<br>"I AM" CULT, a religious organization | | | Character<br>INTERNAL SECURITY-C<br>SEDITION |

KEY FIGURE

Synopsis of Facts: PAUL H. STICKELL born 12/20/89 at Williamson, Pennsylvania. Occupations listed as traveling preacher, educator, patriotic lecturer, and lawyer. EDNA WHEELER BALLARD and GUY BALLARD reported to be founders of "I AM" Cult, which maintains a reading room at 111 W. Jackson, Chicago. Activities and preachings of "I AM" Cult set forth.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent E. P. FERRIS at El Paso, Texas, dated February 21, 1942.

DETAILS: At Chicago, Illinois

In accordance with the national defense program, this matter was referred by letter dated March 24, 1943, to the Chicago Police Department for investigation. By letter dated April 28, 1943, the Chicago Police Department stated that investigation of this matter had been conducted by Officer MAURICE O'SHEA, who reported as follows:

PAUL H. STICKELL

A check of the records of Local Draft Board No. 91, located at 1547 East 79th Street, disclosed that PAUL H. STICKELL registered with Local Draft Board No. 2-B, Hartford, Connecticut. The person listed as the one who would always know the address of STICKELL was LOUISE MAJERUS, 1620 East 84th Place, Chicago.

| Approved & Forwarded | SAC | |
|---|---|---|
| Copies<br>(5) - Bureau<br>4 - El Paso (1 MID, Ft. Sam Houston, 100-1541)<br>2 - Seattle 2 - New Haven<br>3 - Chicago | | RECORDED<br>INDEXED<br>14 82 |

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California
May 1, 1943

Director, FBI

RE: (1) I AM GROUP OF SALT LAKE CITY
INTERNAL SECURITY (G)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent A. CECIL DRURY, Salt Lake City, Utah, dated April 15, 1943, setting forth Los Angeles as office of origin, stating that it is known that this organization has been particularly active in Los Angeles. The Los Angeles indices reflect no record concerning the organization, "I Am Group of Salt Lake City." The indices do reflect a record on the organization "I Am" cult, a religious organization in which the El Paso Field Division is office of origin.

In view of the above, no investigation is being conducted regarding the captioned matter and a copy of reference report is being forwarded to the El Paso Field Division for its information.

Very truly yours,

R. B. HOOD
SAC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-28-82 BY SP2 BTP/mlb

BPS VL
100-10293
cc Salt Lake City
El Paso (Enclosure)

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

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F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JUN 19 1943

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 100-6973

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago, Illinois | 7-9-43 | 6-28,29,30-43 | O. EUGENE COLEMAN OEC/ls |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: The "I Am" cult occupies space at 111 West Jackson Street, Chicago, Illinois, where a small auditorium, school-room, and reading room have been installed. Investigation, contact with informants and sources of information, and check of indices fails to reveal any indication of subversive activities on part of organization.

-RUC-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent JOHN J. BRACKEN, Chicago, Illinois, May 20, 1943.

Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12-28-82 BY SP6 BTP/mg

DETAILS: AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:

Reference report of Special Agent JOHN J. BRACKEN reflected that on November 3, 1942, MRS. ARTHUR BLISS, 5337 North Kenmore, Chicago, had appeared personally at the Office of the Chicago Field Division at which time she had advised that a school for beginners in the "I Am" cult organization was conducted at 3952 Ellis Avenue in Chicago.

On June 28, 1943, MR. WILL MARQUIS, 3960 Ellis Avenue, advised that a home for aged persons was located at 3952 Ellis Avenue next door to his home, which old-age home was run by a MR. and MRS. MC KAY.

He stated that it was his understanding that these people were members of the "I Am" cult and that he had noticed

| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES | |
|---|---|---|---|
| S. J. Bracken | | 93 | RECORDED |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT | | | INDEXED |
| (5) Bureau<br>3 El Paso<br>2 Chicago | FILED 100-7 | 25 JUL 13 1943 | EX-36 |
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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
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that meetings were being held at this place on each Tuesday night, lasting from one and a half hours to two hours. He stated that usually about fifteen or twenty people attended and that he had heard them singing religious songs and talking in unison. He stated that as far as he had ever known, the MC KAYs were very reliable people, were conscientious in their religious work, and he had never heard of any type of disturbance originating at that address.

MR. MARQUIS continued that he did not know the purpose of the religious cult known as "I Am" nor did he know what it advocated. When questioned as to the identity of a MISS WALL who according to MRS. ARTHUR BLISS conducted the meetings at 3952 Ellis Avenue, MR. MARQUIS stated that he had never heard of this person.

MRS. D. N. MACALUSE, 3950 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, advised that a MR. and MRS. MC KAY had been operating a home for aged people at 3952 Ellis Avenue for a period of two years. MRS. MACALUSE stated that meetings were held at the home every Tuesday night by the "I Am" cult and to her knowledge very few people attend. She stated that the program as far as she has been able to ascertain without attending the meetings consists of singing and perhaps some lectures.

MRS. MACALUSE stated that MISS WALL who was supposed to have conducted the meetings is unknown to her. She added that a MRS. COX, first name unknown, who resides at 8715 South Stony Island, a personal friend of hers who had worked at the home as a nurse for a short period of time, could possibly furnish some information concerning the "I Am" cult.

She further stated that she did not believe any of the patients at the home for the aged attended any of the "I Am" meetings. She stated that she had always found MR. and MRS. MC KAY to be very good neighbors and that she had never noted anything about their activities or the activities of other persons visiting the home which would cause her to suspect that they were engaged in any activities which might be considered un-American or not to the best interests of the United States.

MR. J. E. WIDMAN, 3949 Ellis Avenue, and MR. WILLIAM MC NABB, 3958 Ellis Avenue, were also interviewed concerning the activities of the residents at 3952 Ellis Avenue at which time they furnished information that they had seen persons attending some sort of meetings at the latter address on Tuesday nights.

They stated that all persons attending such meetings usually drive up in new appearing automobiles and that they appear to be of at least moderate financial means. They further stated that they had heard familiar religious songs being sung and that in addition their programs appeared to consist of the repetition of certain verses in unison. MR. MC NABB added that MR. and MRS. MC KAY as well as the other participants in the "I Am" cult meetings are quiet and that they have never caused any disturbance whatsoever.

He stated that to his knowledge not over twenty people ever attend any of these meetings. He stated that he was further of the opinion that these meetings were strictly of a religious character and doubted that there was anything subversive going on at that address. MR. WIDMAN also advised that he was of the opinion that the activities of the "I Am" cult at that address were strictly of a religious nature.

MRS. E. COX, 8715 South Stony Island, telephone Bayport 4563, advised on June 29, 1943, that she had worked for MR. and MRS. MC KAY, 3952 Ellis Avenue, for about three weeks in the spring of 1943. She stated that MR. MC KAY is completely wrapped up in the "I Am" movement and that meetings of the organization are held regularly at his home. She stated that she was of the opinion that the meetings there were an offshoot or branch of the downtown church operated by the "I Am" organization.

MRS. COX advised that it is her belief that while most of the persons attending the "I Am" meetings are well-educated and cultured people, they are at the same time eccentric in that they will take up with any and every new religious idea that comes along. She added that she feels that the organization is a harmless religious movement at this time and does not believe there is anything subversive about it.

She stated that she had attended two or three of their meetings and believes that they are extremely patriotic and that to her knowledge nothing has ever come to her attention which would cause her to suspect that the organization is engaged in any activities not to the best interests of this country. MRS. COX stated that while she was employed at MR. MC KAY's home she had never known a MISS WALL who is alleged to have conducted the meetings at 3952 Ellis.

CLAUDE MC KINNEY, a mail carrier operating out of the Hyde Park Postoffice, 46th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue, badge number 1502, advised that the MC KAYs, residing at 3952 Ellis Avenue, receive very little mail and he has never noted anything out of the ordinary about any mail received by them. He added that he did not recall that they received any type of religious publications or pamphlets.

Chicago file 100-6973

MRS. ESTHER ORMEN, chief clerk, local Selective Service board 91, 1547 East 79th Street, was re-contacted by the reporting Agent on June 28, 1943, for any further information which the board might have received concerning PAUL HARTMAN STICKELL, 1620 East 84th Place.

MRS. ORMEN advised that STICKELL's occupational questionnaire had been returned November 3, 1942; that he had stated he was born December 20, 1889, Williamson, Pennsylvania, and at the present time his job was that of traveling preacher, educator, and patriotic lecturer; that he was self-employed, traveling from place to place, and that he had begun such work in January, 1936. MRS. ORMEN further advised that STICKELL had reported that he had practiced law from 1922 until 1935-6, and that the person always knowing his address was LOUISE MAJERUS, 1620 East 84th Place. His serial number is U3373. He has not been classified due to his age.

MRS. MARGUERITE FUERST, 1626 East 84th Place, a neighbor of CECILIA and LOUISE MAJERUS who reside at 1620 East 84th Place, advised that at one time there had been a printing press located in the basement of one of the bungalows located at the latter address.

She added that this printing press had apparently been removed many months ago inasmuch as she has not heard it operating for some length of time. MRS. FUERST stated that she had been living at the above address for ten years and that she had always known the MAJERUS sisters to be good neighbors and that they were quiet and had never caused any disturbances.

She stated that it is her belief that MRS. G. W. BALLARD owned the two bungalows located at 1620 and 1624 East 84th Place; that the MAJERUS sisters reside at 1620 East 84th Place and take care of the property at 1624 East 84th Place, the latter bungalow being the residence of MRS. BALLARD when she visits Chicago.

MRS. FUERST continued that she believes the MAJERUS sisters to be very patriotic in that they have a victory garden and have bought bonds from her husband, MR. FUERST, who is minute-man for that block during the bond drives.

MRS. FUERST stated that the MAJERUS sisters have been living as her next-door neighbors for nearly ten years and that MRS. BALLARD had lived there constantly until about seven years ago.

She stated that she did not know whether MRS. BALLARD was practicing her religious beliefs at the time she resided there but she did recall having seen MRS. BALLARD leave her home with a group of people on several occasions at which time she carried a harp. She stated that MRS. BALLARD was an accomplished harpist.

MRS. FUERST continued that she had never had cause to suspect that the MAJERUS sisters or the BALLARDs were ever engaged in any un-American or subversive activities and that it was her personal belief that although their religion might not meet with the approval of many people they were sincere and conscientious.

MRS. SADIE GEARY, 1616 East 84th Place, advised that she had been living as the next-door neighbor of the MAJERUS sisters for six years; that they were fine neighbors, had always been quiet, and had never caused any disturbance. MRS. GEARY stated that she had attended two or three of the meetings sponsored by the "I Am" organization about three years ago and that she had found these meetings to be of a religious nature in their entirety and that during her attendance she had never heard anything which would cause her to believe that the organization was anything but a religious cult.

MRS. GEARY continued that MRS. BALLARD often visited Chicago at which time she resided at 1624 East 84th Place; that she had visited Chicago during April, 1943, for a period of about three weeks and had resided at that address.

She stated that in her opinion MRS. BALLARD was a fine woman and is of the opinion that MRS. BALLARD is a patriotic American citizen. She further stated that she had heard MRS. BALLARD say in effect that she is all for the American way of life and everything for which it stands.

MRS. GEARY stated that in her opinion complaints concerning the organization had probably come from jealous women who were jealous of her because people of wealth had given MRS. BALLARD quite an amount of money and jewelry.

MRS. GEARY added that at the present time the son of MRS. BALLARD, DONALD BALLARD, is in the Army, and to her knowledge DONALD BALLARD has always been a patriotic American citizen.

She stated that she did not know PAUL STICKELL nor had she ever heard of him.

She stated that there were no printing presses in the buildings that adjoined her home and which are occupied at the present time by the MAJERUS sisters.

She stated that she has never heard any noises which would indicate that printing machines or presses were being operated next door nor did she recall ever seeing any American Express Company trucks receiving any goods from that address.

ROBERT BOOTH, building manager, 111 West Jackson Boulevard, advised on June 28, 1943, that the "I Am" organization rented space at that address. He stated that the lease for the space was signed by PAUL POTTER as president and MABEL POTTER as secretary and treasurer of the "I Am" Reading Room of Chicago, Illinois, Corporation. MR. BOOTH stated that PAUL POTTER is secretary and treasurer of the Associated Milk Dealers, Incorporated, 309 West Jackson Boulevard; that MR. POTTER bears a very good reputation and to his knowledge is a fine business man.

MR. BOOTH stated that the "I Am" organization rents the entire west half of the second floor of the building consisting of about 3,500 square feet. He stated that the floor space has been arranged like a church and that the organization has an organ and church pews in the auditorium where church services are held every Sunday and some times during the week.

MR. BOOTH continued that they also have rented 1,600 square feet of space on the third floor of the building where they conduct a school for children 7, 8, and 9 years of age. He stated that there was a statement in the lease of this space to the effect that the organization was a local unit of the ST. GERMAINE Foundation and that their bank was the Mercantile National Bank, Chicago, Illinois.

MR. BOOTH advised that he had noted that people of fine appearance and apparent culture were attending the meetings of the "I Am" organization and that they had also appeared to be people of average and better financial means.

A MRS. A. TONNORS, in charge of the reading room of the "I Am" organization located at 111 West Jackson Boulevard, was contacted by the reporting Agent under the pretext that he was a possible convert for the cult and that he was interested in knowing the background history and teachings and beliefs of the organization.

MRS. TONNORS advised that the organization had been founded by a MR. GUY W. BALLARD who died in 1939. She stated that MR. BALLARD had been so purified that on his death he had ascended to Heaven where he had joined ST. GERMAINE and JESUS CHRIST. She stated that MR. BALLARD had founded the movement in 1934 after receiving a message from ST. GERMAINE on Mount Shasta in the western part of the United States.

She stated that at the present time MRS. BALLARD is head of the organization throughout thewhole world and that the movement has several hundred thousand members in the United States at the present time as well as members in foreign countries.

She stated that MRS. BALLARD receives messages from MR. BALLARD and ST. GERMAINE as well as JESUS CHRIST and that when a person who is a member of the organization dies they do not know whether he actually ascends to Heaven until ST. GERMAINE, MR. BALLARD, or JESUS CHRIST has communicated with MRS. BALLARD who in turn communicates with her followers to advise them of the ascension of the deceased member.

In regard to the political philosophy of the movement, MRS. TONNORS stated that the cult had none. She stated that she believed that the organization was possibly the most patriotic movement in the United States in that they believed that the Constitution of the United States was a sacred instrument; that the Ascended Masters, - JESUS CHRIST, ST. GERMAINE, and MR. GUY W. BALLARD - have issued decrees that each member of the cult should do everything he can to support the Government of the United States in the present war by purchasing bonds and stamps and by the eligible members enlisting in the armed services.

MRS. TONNORS further stated that the organization did not believe in Nazism or Fascism or Communism or any other of the foreign isms because they were all destructive forces in the world and that the "I Am" organization was a constructive force.

She also stated that the organization did not engage in any political activity whatsoever, that they did not pass resolutions or decrees favoring or disproving of certain legislation or anything of that kind and that they had never taken sides with the beliefs of any political party because they felt that the party which happens to be in power at the time is the correct party because it had been willed so by the Ascended Masters.

In connection with the organization of the unit in Chicago, MRS. TONNORS stated that it was composed of a class for fundamentals which is made up of the new members just recently joining the organization. She continued that there is a second group which is known as the "Decree" group or the more experienced of the members.

She stated that the fundamental class meets on Monday and Thursday nights for one and a half hours at which time they read books and pamphlets together in unison having to do with instructions received from ST. GERMAINE or MR. BALLARD.

The "Decree" group according to MRS. TONNORS reads the decrees or prayers as dictated by the Ascended Masters and written out by MRS. BALLARD as they are pronounced by ST. GERMAINE, MR. GUY W. BALLARD, and JESUS CHRIST.

She stated that the "Decree" groups meet in two-hour classes throughout each day. When questioned concerning MR. BALLARD's death, MRS. TONNORS stated that just prior to the time he passed away JESUS had appeared in the BALLARD home, at which time he had talked to MR. and MRS. BALLARD and had also dictated to MR. BALLARD's stenographer the "I Am" song which is presently sung in all "I Am" branches.

MRS. TONNORS stated that DONALD BALLARD had been in the United States Army for some time and that he had been inducted she believed in California. MRS. TONNORS added that she had been a member of the organization since 1938 and to her knowledge the organization did not employ any evangelists or traveling preachers. She said, however, that MRS. BALLARD travels around the country to some extent to visit the local chapters of the organization at which time she usually gives lectures.

She stated that they did not have preaching services and that their church services were made up entirely of reading together the "Decrees" and articles as written by the Ascended Masters and also the singing of songs.

In connection with the songs used by the organization, she stated that the words had been written by their own leaders but had been set to the music of familiar religious songs sung in Protestant and Catholic churches. She also stated that the organization at the present time received members from all churches and all denominations.

MRS. TONNORS continued that the organization did not publicize their meetings either by newspapers, radio, hand-bills, circulars, or any other manner; that people came to their meetings through requests from friends who were members of the organization or they came being drawn to the meetings through "the light."

MRS. TONNORS advised that she did not know how many members they had in the Chicago area but that new ones were coming in all the time. She stated that in her opinion the "I Am" organization is a movement which seeks to combine religion and intelligent study.

Reference report of Special Agent JOHN J. BRACKEN reflected that one "EVELYN K", 513 Walnut Street, Maywood, Illinois, in a letter addressed to

Chicago file 100-6973

FRAN BARBER, 1699 Graham Boulevard, Montreal, Canada, had written to the effect that there was much secrecy about her work because of spies both here and abroad and that their classes were closed because ST. GERMAINE had ordered that only the intensely interested students should attend the classes. This letter had enclosed a schedule of the weekly meetings held by the "I Am" Sanctuary at 111 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago.

Sergeant HARRY KLUG, Maywood, Illinois, Police Department, advised on June 29, 1943, that they had no record of an EVELYN K at 513 Walnut Street and a check of the telephone directory and city directory revealed no such person.

Sergeant KLUG advised that they had never had any trouble with the "I Am" cult at Maywood and said that he was of the opinion that they did not have a congregation in that city.

DORUS STAFFORD, 513 Walnut Street, Maywood, Illinois, advised that a MR. and MRS. KLEINSCHMIDTS resided at that address and that he believed that MRS. KLEINSCHMIDTS' first name was EVELYN. He stated that although he did not know the KLEINSCHMIDTS very well he believed them to be very fine American citizens in that they lived quietly and had never caused any sort of disturbance.

He stated that MR. KLEINSCHMIDTS operates a confectionery at Maywood, Illinois, where he is assisted by his wife.

D. GEURINE, son of the building manager, advised that he knew very little about the KLEINSCHMIDTS family inasmuch as he had been residing at that address for only a short time. He stated, however, that on one occasion when he had gone to KLEINSCHMIDTS' apartment to measure a room for rugs he had noticed a lot of religious pictures and writings on the walls of the rooms. He stated that he had received the distinct impression that they were a very religious family.

LAWRENCE KESSEL, 610 Fifth Avenue, Maywood, Illinois, who operates the KESSEL Radio Company at that address, advised that he had been in business next door to the KLEINSCHMIDTS for sixteen years. He stated that MR. KLEINSCHMIDTS is honest, up-right, and a fine American businessman. He stated, however, that MRS. EVELYN KLEINSCHMIDTS in his opinion is "balmy."

He stated that MRS. KLEINSCHMIDTS had been taking an active part in the

"I Am" movement and is supposed to be some type of an official or leader in the organization and travels quite a lot. MR. KESSEL stated that about 1938 or 1939 MRS. KLEINSCHMIDTS had gone to England and had been gone so long it was necessary for MR. KLEINSCHMIDTS to make a trip to England to bring her back home.

MR. KESSEL further stated that he believes MRS. KLEINSCHMIDTS to be harmless because in his opinion she is slightly insane. He stated that MR. KLEINSCHMIDTS as well as their son - the son now being in the Army - have remarked on different occasions that "it was too bad but MRS. KLEINSCHMIDTS is nuts."

MR. KESSEL further stated that MRS. KLEINSCHMIDTS will go so far as to come to people while they are sitting in a movie theater and try to convert them to the "I Am" religion. He stated that MRS. KLEINSCHMIDTS came up to his wife while he was sitting beside her in a local theater and tried to convert her to the "I Am" religion.

On June 30, 1943, confidential informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, was contacted, at which time he stated that he had numerous newspaper clippings concerning the "I Am" organization dating as far back as 1938. A review of these newspaper clippings reflected that most of them dealt with the trial of the "I Am" organization leaders on charges of mail fraud at Los Angeles, California. b7D

A clipping from the "Chicago Daily News" for December 3, 1940, concerning this trial revealed that among the other defendants in the case, other than MRS. GUY W. BALLARD and her son, DONALD BALLARD, were CHARLES SINDELAR, an artist, his wife - PEARL SINDELAR, FRANK VON DERHOYS, BETTY MUNDY, confidential aid to MRS. BALLARD, GRANT L. LEWIS, all of Los Angeles; and LOUISE MAJERUS, WILLIAM J. CASSIERE, and PAUL STICKELL, all of Chicago.

They were originally accused on nineteen counts of mail fraud. This clipping further reflected that MRS. BALLARD was also known as "JOAN of Arc" and that DONALD BALLARD was also known as "LAFAYETTE."

A newspaper clipping from the "Chicago Tribune" of July 26, 1940, revealed that MISS CECILIA MAJERUS and her sister, MISS LOUISE MAJERUS, 1620 East 84th Place, had been arrested by Deputy United States Marshal and a postoffice inspector early that morning pursuant to a warrant obtained for their arrest at Los Angeles, California, in connection with the above-mentioned indictment returned against the leaders of the "I Am" organization.

Chicago file 100-6973

The MAJERUS sisters were later released by United States Commissioner EDWIN K. WALKER.

The newspaper clipping from the "Chicago Tribune" for July 26, 1940, also revealed that one THOMAS GILMORE, the attorney for the "I Am" group in Chicago, had said that there were slightly more than six hundred "I Am" members in Chicago.

The "Tribune" article for December 18, 1940, was concerned with the testimony of a MRS. MURIEL L. BLISS of Chicago during the mail fraud trial. She claimed to have been a former "messenger" and conductor of classes for the "I Am" movement. She had testified that the cult had required that all members abstain from all sex activity in order to achieve a complete physical ascension.

Newpaper clipping from the "Chicago Tribune" for May 28, 1939, stated that GUY W. BALLARD had been twice indicted in Chicago on complaints of women who had charged that they had lost many thousands of dollars in BALLARD's "Lake of Gold," a mining stock confidence game.

An article in the "Newsweek"magazine for December 16, 1940, concerning the trial of the Subject at Los Angeles reflected that the BALLARD's had stated that GUY BALLARD had appeared on earth at least twice before, first as a French soprano, thenas GEORGE WASHINGTON; that DONALD BALLARD was also known as ADONA EROS, that MRS. BALLARD was also known as "JESUS" and "JOAN of Arc."

Newspaper clipping from the "Chicago Tribune" for December 29, 1940, reflected that MRS. MAUDE HILL of Chicago had testified that she had given the BALLARDs $1,000.00 and hoped that she would receive an ascension. She stated that she did not receive her ascension and had later severed her connection with the organization.

The "Detroit News" for January 11, 1941, in an article concerning the mail fraud trial, stated that a WILLIAM REISS, a Long Beach, California, contractor, had testified in the trial that he was an active Communist and an advocate of the overthrow of all organized Government before he embraced the "I Am" doctrine. He had gone on to testify that the teachings of the BALLARDs had caused him to change and that at the present time he was a good American.

A newspaper clipping from the "Chicago Daily News" for June 22, 1943, reflected that MRS. BALLARD and DONALD BALLARD had won a new trial in their case. The United States Circuit Court of Appeals had reversed the conviction of the BALLARDs on June 21, 1943, on the grounds of error in the judge's instructions to the jury.

Chicago file 100-6973

A check of the records of the American Bar Association, 1140 North Dearborn, concerning any information pertaining to PAUL H. STICKELL was made with negative results. The records of the DIES Committee and of Lieutenant MAKE MILLS, Industrial Squad, Chicago Police Department, were also checked for any record of PAUL H. STICKELL with negative results.

The records of the Chicago Bar Association reflected that PAUL H. STICKELL had filed an application for membership in that organization in 1921 and had been dropped from its rolls in 1933 for non-payment of dues. No complaints or grievances had ever been recorded against him. This application for membership filed by PAUL H. STICKELL reflects that he was born at Williamson, Pennsylvania, December 20, 1889; that he graduated from Webster College of Law, Chicago, and had received an LLB degree.

In connection with the leads set out in reference report of Special Agent JOHN J. BRACKEN to conduct an investigation to ascertain the identity, background, and activities of GODFREY RAY KIND, LOTUS RAY KING and DONALD RAY KING, all of Chicago, MRS. TONNORS of the "I Am" reading room, 111 West Jackson Boulevard, advised that these were pen names of GUY W. BALLARD, MRS. GUY W. BALLARD, and DONALD BALLARD.

Inasmuch as this investigation in addition to contacts with confidential informants and checks of the records of sources of information has failed to reveal that this organization is engaged in any subversive or un-American activities at the present time, no further investigation is contemplated by the Chicago Field Division and this case is being referred upon completion to the Office of origin.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 100-6973

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago, Illinois | 7-9-43 | 6-28,29,30-43 | O. EUGENE COLEMAN OXC/lm |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: The "I Am" cult occupies space at 111 West Jackson Street, Chicago, Illinois, where a small auditorium, school-room, and reading room have been installed. Investigation, contact with informants and sources of information, and check of indices fails to reveal any indication of subversive activities on part of organization.

-RUC-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent JOHN J. DRACKEN, Chicago, Illinois, May 20, 1943.

Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943.

DETAILS: AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:

Reference report of Special Agent JOHN J. DRACKEN reflected that on November 3, 1942, MRS. ARTHUR BLISS, 5337 North Kenmore, Chicago, had appeared personally at the Office of the Chicago Field Division at which time she had advised that a school for beginners in the "I Am" cult organization was conducted at 3952 Ellis Avenue in Chicago.

On June 28, 1943, MR. WILL MARQUIS, 3960 Ellis Avenue, advised that a home for aged persons was located at 3952 Ellis Avenue next door to his home, which old-age home was run by a MR. and MRS. MC KAY.

He stated that it was his understanding that these people were members of the "I Am" cult and that he had noticed

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This Case Originated At: EL PASO, TEXAS — File No. 100-1541

| Report Made At: | Date when Made: | Period: | Made By: |
|---|---|---|---|
| EL PASO, TEXAS | 7-16-43 | 6-28,29;7-9-43 | EDWARD P. FERRIS jeh |

| Title: | Character: |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

Synopsis: Investigation reflects headquarters of movement is Santa Fe, N. M. Organizational structure set out. Mrs. EDNA BALLARD, head of activity, advised members to leave California, as it was going to sink, and be placed under martial law. Cult is against rationing, War Bonds and Selective Service. Former Group Leader advises Cult subversive, as will only give support to programs beneficial to I AM, and that authority exerted by Mrs. EDNA BALLARD is powerful enough so that members at BALLARD's direction would commit sabotage.

- P -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/2/82 BY SP6 BTM/mg

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943.

DETAILS: AT SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO:

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The following information regarding the organizational structure was furnished by Temporary Confidential Informant A, [redacted] b7D

The I AM activity's official headquarters are in Santa Fe, where it was established during January, 1942, the headquarters having been in Los Angeles, California until the conviction of Mrs. EDNA BALLARD for Mail Fraud in January, 1942. The Activity has branches or Groups in practically every large city of the United States. These Groups are headed by Group Leaders, and the Groups themselves are divided into the Young People's Group and the Adult Groups.

Approved A. H. Belmont SAC

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Other than the groups themselves, the membership is divided into Beginners, the 100% members, and the Million Percent members. In order to become a 100% member, it is necessary to attend eight beginners' classes and to abide by the "I AM" laws, which briefly are the abstinence from meat, tobacco, liquors and all stimulants, from sexual relation and to make regular attendance of the "I AM" classes. The Million Percent members are the Group Leaders themselves.

The Supreme Authority of the "I AM" cult is vested in Mrs. EDNA BALLARD, who is termed "The Divine Messenger." Next in authority is PAUL H. STICKELL, termed "The Accredited Messenger." STICKEL supplanted DONALD BALLARD, the son of EDNA BALLARD, who is now within the armed forces. JOHN KOSTER is the head of the St. Germaine Press, the official corporation which carries on the activity's publications, and is vested with the authority of whom shall become members of the I AM, and who shall attend its classes.

The source of money which sponsors the movement is principally from donations given at the meetings, which are called "Love Gifts" and from the monies derived from the sale of the activity's magazine "The Voice of the I AM." It is reported that from this source Mrs. EDNA BALLARD derives $5,000 per month.

## PAST ACTIVITIES

Confidential Informant A advised that during the trial of Mrs. BALLARD, during January 1942, in Los Angeles, California, Mrs. BALLARD had told the members from the platform at nearly every meeting held before her conviction that the "Ascended Masters", meaning St. Germaine and GUY W. BALLARD, had been protecting the West Coast area due to the I AM radiation of power, but that since the Government had began to persecute her, Mrs. BALLARD, they, the Ascended Masters, had now taken away their protective power; that due to the taking of oil from the ground in California there had been created a great cavity, and that California was going to sink, and that all of the members should go to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where they would be saved by the great altitude. She requested them to leave immediately, as since the Government's persecution, all transportation was to be stopped so that the I AM members could not escape, and further that California was going to be put under Martial Law.

Informant A stated that CHARLES SINDELAR, the Group Leader in Los Angeles, had advised her mother to leave Los Angeles immediately because of the aforesaid reasons. Informant A advised that she had heard the report during one of the meetings she attended that the west coast was to be bombed by the Japs in retaliation for the Government's prosecution of Mrs. BALLARD.

Informant A stated that due to these statements, all of the members became very panicky, and had nearly all left en masse for Santa Fe.

Informant A continued that from the platform Mrs. BALLARD had told various stories about the rationing program, the vitamin program being dope to make people subservient to ROOSEVELT, how the people were to be starved due to rationing; that she further led in chanting decrees (prayers) to have the drafting of boys stopped, and actually intimated to the young men to evade service under the Selective Service Act. As to the latter, Informant A stated that Mrs. BALLARD guarded her language very closely so as not to make a seditious utterance, but that from her statements the evasion of service was certainly hinted.

Informant A stated that Mrs. BALLARD had informed the members not to buy War Bonds or Stamps, nor to purchase insurance, as the Government had a secret agreement with Russia and that the Government was becoming more Communistic thereby; that soon the "Asconded Masters" would come down to earth and take over the Government, and that then the Golden Age would appear and everything would be all right.

Informant stated that Mrs. BALLARD claims there are five million members, and that it appears to be an assumption that someday the "I AMs" expect to control the United States.

Informant stated that after the I AMs had arrived in Santa Fe, that at one of their meetings, probably in March, 1942, Mrs. BALLARD had stated substantially that the Government had made arrangements to allow the interned, dangerous Japanese to escape and that they, the Japanese, were to kill all of the I AMs, who would be pointed out by the FBI, and therefore they, the members, were to arm themselves. Informant stated that as a result both [redacted] and that nearly all of the members purchased some type of ammunition for whatever type of guns they had, or some kind of weapon to defend themselves with. b7D

PRESENT ACTIVITIES

Informant A stated that during the month of June, 1943, the cult had its annual twenty-two day meeting, but that no new activities were inaugurated, and that the only subversive tendencies she could discover was the fact that the I AMs will only give support to programs which are beneficial to the I AM; that it will therefore not support the war effort, as the I AMs are opposed to all war. Informant stated that she would term the I AM activity a religious racket, analagous to the movement by AIMEE SEMPLE MacPHERSON in Los Angeles, but that its most dangerous aspect was that Mrs. BALLARD had such control and domination over its members that if she told the members to commit an act of sabotage they would follow her instructions without hesitation.

Informant A concluded that the I AMs had a small group in Albuquerque, New Mexico, but that she knew of no other group which was within this Field Division. Informant stated she would willingly testify as to the statements made by Mrs. BALLARD as set out herein.

P E N D I N G

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE EL PASO FIELD DIVISION:

AT SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO:

Will recontact Informant A for any further information concerning the present policies and activities of instant group.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

Temporary Confidential Informant A is [redacted] b7D

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This Case Originated At: EL PASO, TEXAS File No. 100-1541

| Report Made At: | Date when Made: | Period: | Made By: |
|---|---|---|---|
| EL PASO, TEXAS | 7-16-43 | 6-28,29;7-9-43 | EDWARD P. FERRIS jeh |

| Title: | Character: |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

Synopsis: Investigation reflects headquarters of movement is Santa Fe, N. M. Organizational structure set out. Mrs. EDNA BALLARD, head of activity, advised members to leave California, as it was going to sink, and be placed under martial law. Cult is against rationing, War Bonds and Selective Service. Former Group Leader advises Cult subversive, as will only give support to programs beneficial to I AM, and that authority exerted by Mrs. EDNA BALLARD is powerful enough so that members at BALLARD's direction would commit sabotage.

- P -

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943.

DETAILS: AT SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO:

DATE 12/2/02 SBE BSP/MR

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The following information regarding the organizational structure was furnished by Temporary Confidential Informant A. [redacted] b7D

The I AM activity's official headquarters are in Santa Fe, where it was established during January, 1942, the headquarters having been in Los Angeles, California until the conviction of Mrs. EDNA BALLARD for Mail Fraud in January, 1942. The Activity has branches or Groups in practically every large city of the United States. These Groups are headed by Group Leaders, and the Groups themselves are divided into the Young People's Group and the Adult Groups.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS

FILE NO. 100-1407

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| DENVER, COLORADO | 7-28-43 | 7-14,15,16,17, 19-43 | DONALD W. GERE |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT - A Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Instant Cult active in Denver, Boulder, and Greeley, Colorado. Denver leader is Mrs. MINNIE ~~X~~ PATTEE, wife of former Deputy District Attorney and Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder. Resident of Colorado since 1886. Denver branch has headquarters and reading room at 119 Fifteenth Street. Names of other persons believed members set out. Member states some members are radical in their beliefs and in order to commercialize on their membership spread malicious rumors concerning the Cult. Boulder and Greeley leaders both well known and long-time residents of Colorado. No evidence of subversive activities on the part of leaders. Denver branch has leased the Phipps' Auditorium, Colorado Museum, in City Park, for series of lectures and musical programs beginning 9-4-43 through Oct. 1943. Information to the effect that West Coast members desire to locate in midwestern states due to danger of invasion on West Coast. Additional investigation to be conducted.

DATE: 5/26/58

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-23-80 BY SP2 [illegible]

**REFERENCE:** Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943.

**DETAILS:** AT DENVER, COLORADO

Investigation revealed that the local chapter of the "I Am" Cult is presently headquartered at 119 Fifteenth Street. This is also a reading room for the Cult and contains a library on religious books that will be loaned to members and interested persons if they desire to become affiliated with the Cult.

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It was ascertained through Confidential Source of Information T-1 that the local chapter is headed by Mrs. MINNIE PATTEE who resides at Lakewood, Colorado, and who is the wife of ARTHUR C. PATTEE, now deceased, who was during his life a Denver Deputy District Attorney and also a County Clerk and Recorder of Jefferson County. In 1923 PATTEE was a Republican nominee for the governorship. At the time of his death he was the of the Pattee Realty Company, which company is now run by Mrs. PATTEE. This informant stated that she had first come in contact with this group inasmuch as [redacted] b7D and that she later learned that these persons were members of the "I Am" Cult. [redacted] She stated that to her knowledge meetings are held frequently during the week and that they are termed "classes." She said that Thursday evening seems to be the main class schedule for the group. This source of information stated that she has known of Mrs. PATTEE for some years and that to her knowledge she was quite prominent in Colorado and did not see how it was possible for such a long-time resident to be engaged in any subversive activity or be the leader of any group that would condone such activity. This source of information will report further information that she may receive to the Denver Office.

Source of Information T-2 advised that [redacted] described above and [redacted] that the group had very mysterious meetings frequently. She said that in addition the basement of the house was filled with canned goods and peculiar boxes, the contents of which she did not know. She stated that numerous electrical appliances were installed and pointed out one appliance which apparently housed a loud speaker. She stated that she found electric warning signals in two rooms of the house; further, that in her flour barrel, which is a built in compartment in the kitchen, she found a green powdery substance that the maid had informed her had been used in some sort of ritual of the Cult. She pointed out that the bathroom and one bedroom of the house had been repainted an extraordinarily loud lavendar and yellow. This informant stated that [redacted] had been involved in [redacted] and had been arrested by the Denver Police Department. She knew no other activity on the part of [redacted] that would indicate he was engaged in any subversive activity other than the mysterious meetings and boxes that they had in the house. She added that [redacted] This source of information referred agent to Mr. CHARLES H. HANINGTON who is in charge of the Colorado Museum located at the Denver City Park.

Mr. CHARLES H. HANINGTON advised that this Cult, through Mrs. MINNIE PATTEE, had leased the auditorium at that museum from September 4, 1943, to

the end of October, 1943, for a series of musical programs and lectures to be open to the public as well as members of the Cult. He advised that the group that approached him to rent the hall seemed to be well educated and well fixed financially. He stated that he had a discussion with Mrs. PATTEE about the nature of this group and she advised there would be nothing objectionable about the meetings; that they were absolutely and purely of a religious nature. It was agreed that should anything of an objectionable nature arise during the lectures, the contract for the hall would be immediately canceled. Mrs. PATTEE stated that anyone who cared to attend could do so. Along this line Mr. HANINGTON pointed out that previously lectures were held at the Shirley Savoy Hotel and that Mrs. PATTEE had explained the group had become so large that the auditorium of this hotel would no longer house them. He stated that on one occasion he had attended a meeting of the group and that this meeting was of a religious nature and was attended by approximately 150 people. He advised, however, that during the meeting one of the leaders asked actual members to please stand and that only fifteen people out of the whole group acknowledged themselves as members.

At the Denver Police Department it was ascertained that Dr. SHEETS had been arrested as a member of the Consumers Service Company for a confidence game and conspiracy. This case, however, was dismissed September 10, 1942, for lack of evidence. Dr. SHEETS is described as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Age | 45 |
| Height | 5'7" |
| Weight | 189 lbs. |
| Build | Heavy |
| Complexion | Florid |
| Hair | Chestnut |
| Moustache | Light |
| Teeth | Good |
| Occupation | Dentist |

A review of the credit records on Mrs. MINNIE PATTEE and Dr. W. M. SHEETS at the Retail Credit Men's Association showed that both had excellent credit standings. The record on Mrs. PATTEE verified the information set forth by informant T-1 in this report. The record on Dr. SHEETS showed that he was from Abilene, Kansas, and that his yearly income had been reported to be in the neighborhood of $12,000. This report listed his occupation as dentist and research engineer.

On July 19, 1943, informant T-1 recontacted the writer and reported [redacted] had made the remark that members of the "I Am" Cult were anxious to leave the West Coast and come to midwestern states because of the fact of possible invasion of the West Coast on the part of the enemy. b7D

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JOHN DENNIS O'CONNELL.

By letter of March 25, 1943, the Los Angeles Field Division advised the Denver Office that a Mr. CHARLES HARRAH was a former follower of the "I Am" Cult but at the present time was not associated with the group and could furnish information regarding same. It was suggested that he be interviewed concerning information which allegedly was in possession of DONALD BALLARD, who is presently in the United States Army and who was reported to be corresponding with many individuals and inducing them to desert from the Army.

Mr. CHARLES HARRAH was interviewed at 1585 West Dakota Avenue and advised that he was still a member of the "I Am" Cult and had never made any statements concerning BALLARD with respect to the latter's allegedly enticing soldiers to desert. Mr. HARRAH advised that the "I Am" Cult has many enemies who spread malicious rumors and, further, that the Cult's tenets include extreme Americanism. He stated that in his opinion any members who were called on to serve in the armed forces would be excellent soldiers. Mr. HARRAH advised that the Cult is not an organized system but a form of belief and has among its many believers some who may be radical and some who wish to commercialize it and it is these members within the Cult who spread malicious rumors about it upon their failure to commercialize on its beliefs.

AT BOULDER, COLORADO

It was ascertained through confidential source of information that the Cult has its headquarters and reading room in Room 6, Boulder National Bank Building, and that the group is under the leadership of Mrs. J. A. DEAVENPORT, 1900 Bluebell Street. It was ascertained further that Mrs. DEAVENPORT has been in Boulder since 1916; is from a very prominent family, has one boy who has been in the Navy for fourteen years, and is considered one of the patriotic citizens of that community. Information received from various sources indicates that the Cult in Boulder is now considered to be a harmless religious organization.

Confidential Informant T-3, [redacted] advised that the group in Boulder consists of approximately [redacted] persons; that they hold their meetings in the same [redacted] He said that the people he has seen go to the meetings are known Boulder people, not one of whom he would suspect as engaged in any subversive activity. He said that the ritual there consists first of a pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States, then the group engages in the singing of numerous patriotic songs prior to their religious sermon and ceremony. He said that they did not actively engage in distributing literature but that the literature he has seen consisted

b7D

solely of religious pamphlets. He said that the meetings were attended by approximately twenty-five people, although he did not feel that more than one-half dozen were actual members.

Confidential Informant T-4 advised that [redacted] b7D [redacted] to be a patriotic and substantial citizen of Boulder. [redacted] He advised that to his knowledge this is not taking place and that he is positive the group in Boulder is made up of "rather eccentric individuals." This informant will advise the Denver Office immediately upon receipt of information to the contrary.

AT GREELEY, COLORADO

Confidential Informant T-5 advised that the Greeley Chapter of the "I Am" Cult has its headquarters and reading room at 920 Thirteenth Street, which is the home of Mrs. MARY V. FRENCH. He said that the leader of the Greeley group was Mrs. IRA L. SIDES, who is a well known Greeley woman engaged in running a typewriter exchange at Greeley. He advised that Dr. C. R. BENZEL, a Greeley chiropractor, was also very active in this group and that the meetings consisted of religious discussions and "love gifts." This informant felt that this group was merely a "racket," explaining that new members are asked to buy $23.00 worth of religious books and that if they attend each meeting they can purchase the entire group for $23.00. However, for each meeting that they miss, they have to begin payments again, which in some cases amount to an unusually high price for a set of religious books. He stated that there are approximately [redacted] members in Greeley and that they seem to have a persecution complex because of the recent possibility of invasion on the West Coast. He said that he does not believe that they are engaged in subversive activity with the exception of their various campaigns against the Jews and of their prejudice against the government for the trial and investigation of the BALLARD family. He stated that he feels that the group is dangerous to the extent that they accuse the government of perjury and instruct their followers in the light of this, but that such discussions are usually made by members who are not the leaders of the group; adding that he is sure the leaders of the Greeley group are patriotic citizens. This informant will report any other information that comes into his possession. He stated that he is sure cults are rapidly gaining a foothold both in Wyoming and in Colorado and that he has heard that the Cult is extremely active in western Colorado.

Inasmuch as this investigation has not covered Wyoming or western Colorado, leads are being set out to determine the extent of activities of this group in the larger towns in the Denver Field Division territory.

- P E N D I N G -

## UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE DENVER FIELD DIVISION

AT MONTROSE, COLORADO

Will interview CLYDE E. GARFIELD, Bolen Motor Company, for any information he may have concerning the activities of instant Cult, indicating that it may be subversive. Will contact other sources of information to determine extent of its activities.

AT GUNNISON, COLORADO

Will interview G. LEWIS MILLER for information he may have concerning the activities of instant Cult indicating that it may be subversive.

AT OURAY, COLORADO

Will contact sources of information to determine the extent of activities of this Cult in that area.

AT PUEBLO, COLORADO

Will contact sources of information to determine the extent of activities of this Cult in that area.

AT CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Will contact sources of information to determine the extent of activities of this Cult in that area.

AT CASPER, WYOMING

Will contact sources of information to determine the extent of activities of this Cult in that area.

AT DENVER, COLORADO

Will report further data received from sources of information in instant case.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Re: Report of Special Agent DONALD W. GERE, Denver, Colorado, July 28, 1943.

"I AM" CULT - A Religious Organization

INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION

Confidential Informant T-1:

Confidential Informant T-2:

Confidential Informant T-3:

Confidential Informant T-4:

Confidential Informant T-5:

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS    FILE NO. 100-1407

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| DENVER, COLORADO | 7-23-43 | 7-14,15,16,17, 19-43 | DONALD W. GERE |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT - A Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Instant Cult active in Denver, Boulder, and Greeley, Colorado. Denver leader is Mrs. MINNIE PATTEE, wife of former Deputy District Attorney and Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder. Resident of Colorado since 1836. Denver branch has headquarters and reading room at 119 Fifteenth Street. Names of other persons believed members set out. Member states some members are radical in their beliefs and in order to commercialize on their membership spread malicious rumors concerning the Cult. Boulder and Greeley leaders both well known and long-time residents of Colorado. No evidence of subversive activities on the part of leaders. Denver branch has leased the Phipps' Auditorium, Colorado Museum, in City Park, for series of lectures and musical programs beginning 9-4-43 through Oct. 1943. Information to the effect that West Coast members desire to locate in midwestern states due to danger of invasion on West Coast. Additional investigation to be conducted.

\- P -

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943.

DETAILS: AT DENVER, COLORADO

Investigation revealed that the local chapter of the "I Am" Cult is presently headquartered at 119 Fifteenth Street. This is also a reading room for the Cult and contains a library of religious books that will be loaned to members and interested persons if they desire to become affiliated with the Cult.

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12/2/02 D. 588 [illegible]

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 100-2498

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
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| PHOENIX, ARIZONA | 8-9-43 | 7-12,21,22,23-43 | JOHN FRANCIS HIGGINS bjr |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

This Activity maintains Reading Rooms in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona. Numbrical strength in Phoenix approximates one hundred mixed members. Investigation determines that this organization is not aggressive in Arizona; members consider themselves loyal Americans though they express dissatisfaction with certain aspects of the Capitalistic System and with certain attitudes of the Roosevelt Administration. Information concerning Cult meetings and their nature as well as certain political and religious views of this body set out. Thirty day mail cover expiring 8-16-43 placed.

-P-

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943.

DETAILS: AT PHOENIX, ARIZONA

The "I AM" activity have established a Reading and Meeting Room at 919 North First Street, the property, converted single-family structure, being rented by the Phoenix Title & Trust Company to one ORA D. ORME, a prominent member of the organization; an American Flag is prominently displayed at this address, draped over a front window from within.

CHESTER B. McCURRY, a merchant located at 923 North First Street, advised that the activity conduct several meetings weekly and that these meetings

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| A.R. Duggan Jr. | | 62-56791-96 | RECORDED |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT | | 20 AUG 14 1943 | INDEXED |
| 5 Bureau<br>1 ONI, Tucson<br>2 El Paso<br>2 Phoenix | | | EX-36 |

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE - O - 7-2034

are staged always in orderly fashion; he related that the membership apparently was small but made up of respectable people of the community. McCURRY advised further that there appears to be no disposition on the part of any of these people to proselytize, no random distribution of literature expounding Cult views and no solicitation of funds. He could not furnish information concerning what transpires at the meetings but related that the meetings are punctuated by the singing of patriotic hymns. McCURRY related that he has come to the acquaintance of certain of the Activity members, who have made incidental purchases for the Cult at his place of business. On occasions parcel post packages addressed from some city on the Pacific Coast have been left with McCURRY in the absence of members from the Reading Room. He named the following prominent members of the local chapter of the Activity:

Mrs. F. J. FOLTZ, 341 East Culver Street
Mrs. E. K. PHILLIPS, 719 East Moreland Street
Miss ORA D. ORME, Orme Avenue

Mrs. E. K. PHILLIPS, 719 East Moreland, was interviewed by the writer under pretext for the purpose of determining the identity of the most prominent male leader of the Cult in Phoenix. Mrs. PHILLIPS did not show a disposition to talk about the Activity but did state that she had abandoned interest in the Cult, in favor of still another novel Sect. She stated that Doctor A. L. GAGNIER a chiropractor practicing in Phoenix, was a Group Leader and an active member.

On July 16, 1943 a cover of all First and Fourth Class mail was placed with LANE E. SICKLES, Assistant Superintendent of the Phoenix Post Office. SICKLES advised that the Organization does not rent a mail box, that all mail is directed to 919 North First Street.

Investigation of A. L. GAGNIER developed the following information concerning him. He is a practicing chiropractor who resides at 4109 North Longview and retains an office at 17 South First Street. He was born at Bay City, Michigan in 1902, is married and the father of four children. He registered duly for military service with Local Board #3, Phoenix and was classified 3A on August 24, 1942, which classification he continues to enjoy. GAGNIER is a member of the Civil Air Patrol #8-5-215, his license #S 227970. He has been practicing chiropody in Phoenix since 1932, during which time he has managed to develop a poor credit record and to eke out a livelihood. He does not have a local criminal record and the Phoenix Office indices are negative as to him.

LIN B. ORME, President of the Salt River Valley Water Users Association, stated that he knew nothing of the "I AM" Cult except that his cousin,

D 6

Phoenix File No. 100-2498

ORA D. ORIE, a spinster and religious eccentric, was a member of the Organization.

From A Confidential Source was obtained a copy of "Purpose of the Ascended Masters of 'I AM' Activity". This copy set forth as a member of Sect the name "OTTO HAMMEL". A check of the Phoenix indices reflects that this same individual, A German by birth, was the subject of Phoenix files 100-230 and 65-190, both of which were closed after investigation developed that HAMMEL was a fanatic and a religious eccentric, a staunch member of the Activity.

ARTHUR LOUIS GAGNIER was interviewed by the writer under the guise of obtaining further information concerning the activities of OTTO HAMMEL, the alleged author of un-American statements and reportedly a member of the "I AM" Activity. GAGNIER admitted knowing HAMMEL well and informed that the latter died in Santa Fe, New Mexico about six months ago. GAGNIER siezed upon the opportunity to make disclosures concerning the local activity of the Organization when asked to explain how Nazi-sympathizer HAMMEL became associated with the "I AM" Activity. His remarks in substance are cataloged below.

MEMBERSHIP

The Activity in Phoenix is composed of approximately one hundred men, women and young people. Another Reading Room is located at Tucson, Arizona, the number of its membership GAGNIER stated he did not know. GAGNIER acknowledged being a Group Leader of the Phoenix branch.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Several meetings of the Activity are held weekly, scheduled as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday | 10:30 A.M. | All-Mens' Group |
| " | 7:30 P.M. | Student Group |
| Monday | 1:30 P.M. | Fundamental Group (Open) |
| " | 7:30 P.M. | Fundamental Group (Open) |
| Tuesday | 7:30 P.M. | Student 100% Group |
| Wednesday | 1:30 P.M. | Ladies Group |
| Thursday | 7:30 P.M. | Student Group |
| Friday | 1:30 P.M. | Student Group |

RELIGIOUS VIEWS

Indications are that this Activity is a religious group which subscribes to certain theosophical principles based on an ideology allegedly derived from

a series of principles ascribed to Saint Germain, acknowledged by members of the Cult to be an "Ascended Master". As such Saint Germain is considered to occupy a like position with the Founder of Christianity and because of the excellence of his life on earth Edward BALLARD is now likewise one of the "Ascended Masters". BALLARD is considered to have been the reincarnation of GEORGE WASHINGTON, who is considered an "Ascended Master" and is revered by the Activity on a religious conviction. The Activity reportedly is jealous of the Constitution of the United States for the reason that, they maintain, the patriots who figured in shaping this document were throughout their deliberations under the influence of Saint Germain; leaders of "I AM" attach to themselves the responsibility of giving interpretation to Constitutional Provisions and to the Constitutionality of legislation. It is their belief that this country will eventually be controlled by the "I AM" Activity because in due course the attractiveness of the Cult's principles will prove irresistible to all Americans. Prior to the institution of prosecution in Los Angeles in 1940 the Activity claimed some 6,000,000 members throughout the world and, according to the interviewee, great strides were being made by the Activity in Eastern United States; because of the stigma of the criminal suit on the Pacific Coast interest in the East waned. Mrs. BALLARD is regarded by Sect members as the Founder of Christianity. She is well regarded by Christians and members of the sect would do her bidding. The various literary works of BALLARD are to be found in public libraries generally and these works in ineffable language purpostedly set out the doctrines of the Activity. The Cult's interpretation of the doctrine of the Trinity is that the Father is the "Mighty I AM"; the Son is the "Ascended Master Group" and the Holy Spirit is the "Spirit within each member. The Activity seems to be based on a strange altruism.

## POLITICAL VIEWS

The Organization is reportedly opposed to Communism and to foreign ideologies. It looks upon the current World Conflict as one in which this country should not be a participant but it does countenance Selective Service. It is opposed to the inoculation of soldiers because it is opposed to inoculation because the serums are obtained from animals. It is opposed to eating flesh foods because it is not certain that animals too have souls. As stated above, the Cult maintains that it is the divinely appointed safeguard of the Constitution, that interpretation of it, etc. properly the province of Cult officials, opinion to the contrary notwithstanding. At each meeting those attending recite passages from historic American documents and engage in the singing of American patriotic songs; the rest of the meeting time is devoted to the interpretation by leaders of tenets and religious convictions of the Sect as set down by EDWARD BALLARD and his wife.

GAGNIER stated that after a period of indoctrination members are then given a membership card bearing a number and the date on which the member became such. Each member is required to show his card before gaining entrance to meetings irrespective of his position in Activity affairs. GAGNIER showed [illegible] the writer his card which bears Identification Number 7850, awarded to him on May 24, 1942. For violation of regulations members forfeit their cards, which are summarily taken up when a delinquent member presents himself at a subsequent meeting. GAGNIER stated that after the United States entered the war he sought to enter military service as a chiropractor but was turned down for the reason that his service was not needed in that capacity. GAGNIER is a member in good standing of the Civil Air Patrol, Office of Defense Transportation. He indicated that he would be glad to serve his country in the event he is called for service.

A check of the charge-out cards of the several books on the shelves of the Phoenix Public Library reflect that these volumes have been charged out very infrequently since 1939.

PENDING

Phoenix File No. 100-2498

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE PHOENIX FIELD DIVISION

AT TUCSON, ARIZONA

Will conduct appropriate investigation to determine current policies and activities of this organization, the strength of its membership.

AT PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Will report results of mail cover placed at Phoenix on July 16th. Will conduct further investigation into the activities of this Organization.

IDENTITY OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMER

The Confidential Source referred to in instant report is the office [redacted] b7E

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 100-2478

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| PHOENIX, ARIZONA | 8-9-43 | 7-12,21,22,23-43 | AGENT FILE IN CHARGE bjr |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C SABOTAGE |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

This activity maintains Reading Rooms in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona. Numerical strength in Phoenix approximates one hundred mixed members. Investigation determines that this organization is not aggressive in Arizona; members consider themselves loyal Americans though they express dissatisfaction with certain aspects of the Capitalistic system and with certain attitudes of the Roosevelt Administration. Information concerning Cult meetings and their nature as well as certain political and religious views of this body set out. Thirty day mail cover expiring 8-16-43 placed.

-P-

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943.

DETAILS AT PHOENIX, ARIZONA

The "I AM" activity have established a Reading and meeting Room at 919 North First Street, the property, converted single-family structure, being rented by the Phoenix Title & Trust Company to one A. L. [redacted], a prominent member of the organization; an American Flag is prominently displayed at this address, draped over a front window from within.

[redacted] a merchant located at 923 North First Street, advised that the activity conduct several meetings weekly and that these meetings

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 65-617

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA | 8-4-43 | 7-2,3,5-10, 12-17,20,21, 22,23-43 | RALPH V. REED |

TITLE
"I AM" CULT, a religious organization

CHARACTER OF CASE
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Informant A advises no "I Am" Cult meetings in the San Diego Field Division but a meeting is soon to be held at the "I Am" sanctuary, Laguna Beach, California. Literature and principal members of the "I Am" Cult in the San Diego Field Division and recommended books for members of the "I Am" Cult set out.

-P-

DATE 12/13/02 BY SP2 CDJ/MS

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent EDWARD P. FERRIS, El Paso, dated July 16, 1943.

DETAILS:

"I AM" CULT IN THE SAN DIEGO FIELD DIVISION:

Present Activities:

Informant A advises there are no "I Am" Cult meetings being conducted in the San Diego Field Division at the present time but that a big meeting is to be held in the near future at Laguna Beach, California, in the "I Am" Sanctuary. Informant A advises that said "I Am" sanctuary is centrally located for the California members.

Principal Members:

Mr. (William) Ensor, 1101 Union Street, Place of employment - Ensor & Roberts Automobile Agency.

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Mrs. (William) Ensor, San Diego, California.

Dr. GRACE HUTSON, Chiropractor, Granger Building, San Diego, California. (100% leader)

Miss HORTENSE HOCKE, Torrence Street, Mission Hills, San Diego, California.

Mrs. ——— MORGANSTERN, 5th and A Street, Coronado, California.

Mrs. JOHN SWINGLER, Coronado, California.

Leaders:

Mr. (WILLIAM) ENSOR, 1101 Union Street, Employment 1101 Union Street, Ensor & Roberts Automobile Agency.

Mrs. (WILLIAM) ENSOR.

Informant B was unable at the present time to give the correct home address of [redacted] b7D

Informant A advised that [redacted] have recently returned from [redacted] where they have been with [redacted] for the past [redacted] years.

Informant A also stated that a [redacted] of [redacted] by a previous marriage is also reported to be an [redacted]

Books recommended to members of the "I Am" Cult:

"I Am Decrees"
"I Am" Presence" (The magic Presence)
"Unveiled Mysteries"

Informant A stated that in the last few months there has been very little activity among the "I Am" cult of the San Diego Field Division but more activity can be expected in the next few months as a result of the meeting to be conducted at Laguna Beach, California, "I Am" Sanctuary.

The San Diego Police Department, the San Diego County Sheriff's Office, Confidential Informant [redacted] and Confidential Informant [redacted] were contacted relative to any information they might have concerning the "I Am" Cult and they were able to furnish no information other than already included in this file. b7D

-PENDING-

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE SAN DIEGO FIELD DIVISION

At San Diego, California, will check further activities of the "I Am" Cult through the medium of Confidential Informants.

At Laguna Beach, California, will determine the exact date of the "I Am" Cult meeting to be held at the "I Am" Sanctuary and report any activities of the "I Am" Cult in this locality.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

INFORMANT A -

INFORMANT B -

b7D

-P-

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 65-617

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA | 8-4-43 | 7-2,3,5-10, 12-17,20,21, 22,23-43 | [redacted] |

TITLE: "I AM" CULT, a religious organization

CHARACTER OF CASE: INTERNAL SECURITY - C
EDITION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Informant A advises no "I Am" Cult meetings in the San Diego Field Division but a meeting is soon to be held at the "I Am" sanctuary, Laguna Beach, California. Literature and principal members of the "I Am" Cult in the San Diego Field Division and recommended books for members of the "I Am" Cult set out.

-P-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] P. [redacted]IS, El Paso, dated July 10, 1943.

DETAILS: "I AM" CULT IN THE SAN DIEGO FIELD DIVISION:

Present Activities:

Informant A advises there are no "I Am" Cult meetings being conducted in the San Diego Field Division at the present time but that a big meeting is to be held in the near future at Laguna Beach, California, in the "I Am" Sanctuary. Informant A advises that said "I Am" sanctuary is centrally located for the California members.

Principal Members:

Mr. (William) Kusor, 1101 Union Street, Place of employment - Edgar & Roberts Automobile Agency.

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This Case Originated At: EL PASO, TEXAS — File No. 100-7575

| Report Made At: | Date When Made | Period | Made By: |
|---|---|---|---|
| NEW HAVEN, CONN. | 8/9/43 | 6/22,23,25,30, 7/1,15/43 | JOHN J. TROST |

| Title: | Character: |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, A Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

Synopsis: Survey of State of Connecticut reflects only one "I Am" unit operating at Hartford, Conn., which is composed of approximately twenty-five persons under the leadership of E. W. CHAMPION and wife. Material in files of Yale University Library on subject organization reviewed, as well as material in New Haven Free Library. Local Board 2-B Hartford, Conn., has no record on PAUL H. STICKELL.

-R U C-

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REFERENCES: Report of Special Agent JOHN J. BRACKEN dated May 20, 1943, at Chicago, Illinois.
Bureau letter to the El Paso Field Division dated June 15, 1943.

DETAILS: At New Haven, Connecticut

Mrs. MARGARET M. HOHL of the Better Business Bureau of the New Haven Chamber of Commerce advised that her organization had no record on the "I Am" Cult, or any of the individuals connected with the organization.

Inquiry was made with negative results at the New Haven Credit Bureau and at the Retail Credit Company. Further inquiry was made at the New Haven Council of Churches, 53 Wall Street, where SELDON B. HUMPHREY advised that his organization had no

Approved R. H. Lamoreaux SAC

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2 Chicago
1 San Francisco (Info)
2 New Haven

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record of the "I Am" Cult, but stated that he had a vague recollection of having seen an advertisement in one of the local papers of recent date in regard to a meeting of subject organization.

CARL DALQUIST, City Editor of the New Haven Journal Courier, as well as E. B. HARVEY, Publisher of that paper, advised that they had no recollection of having received any information concerning the "I Am" Cult, and WILLIAM H. CULLUM, Business Manager of the New Haven Register likewise advised that he was unfamiliar with the "I Am" Cult.

The editions of both of these papers which constitute the only daily newspapers published in New Haven, Connecticut, were examined for a period from May 1 to June 30, 1943, however, no indication could be found in either paper of an advertisement for instant organization.

At the Price and Lee Company, 246 Meadow Street, which company publishes City Directories, an examination was made of various directories published for the State of Connecticut for a listing in regard to the "I Am" Cult. However, the results of this examination were negative. Inquiry was likewise made of Miss ANNE SCHANE, who is in charge of compiling the association sections of the various directories, and she advised that she was not familiar with the "I Am" organization, nor had a listing for such organization ever been contained in any of her files or in any of the directories published by Price and Lee.

H. L. SEAMANS, of the National Conference for Christians and Jews, 185 Church Street, stated that he covers the entire New England district for his organization, and that his work brings him in contact with all kinds of religious organizations operating in that area. He advised, however, that he has never discovered any unit of the "I Am" organization in the course of his work.

Mr. H. B. FISHER, Liaison Officer, Yale University, furnished the writer with various publications contained in the Yale University Libraries in regard to the subject organization, which publications will be discussed inasmuch as it is not known whether the Bureau or the Office of Origin is in possession of prior information in this regard.

"Unveiled Mysteries" by GODFRE RAY KING presented to Yale University by G. W. BALLARD, copyright 1934 and 1935 by St. Germain Press, Post Office Box 113, Chicago, Illinois, contains an editor's

note by LOTUS RAY KING, as well as a tribute and forward by GODFRE RAY KING. It is the recordings of experiences by the author through his contacts with the ascended Master on Mt. Shasta in California in August, September, and October of 1930.

"The Magic Presence" by GODFRE RAY KING presented to Yale University by G. W. BALLARD, copyright 1935 by the St. Germain Press, Post Office Box 113, Chicago, Illinois, contains a tribute and forward by the author and relates a second group of experiences which the author states he was privileged to have "through the love and assistance of the beloved ascended Master, St. Germain".

"The Voice of The I Am", Edition No. 5, for the month of July, 1936, published at the Sindlar Studios, 2600 South Street, Los Angeles, California, copyright 1936 by the St. Germain Press, contains general "I Am" propaganda, and it reflects therein that the "I Am" Reading Rooms are located as follows:

Los Angeles, 7th and Olive Streets
Philadelphia, 1325 Spruce Street
San Diego, Calif., 6th & Broadway, Bank of America Building, Room 341

It is further stated that further appearances of the messengers would be made at San Francisco, California, at the Scottish Rite Auditorium, Sutter and VanNess Street.

This pamphlet had attached to it a letter dated August 11, 1940, written by E. J. WALL, 242 South Harvard Blvd., Los Angeles, California, to Hon. J. JOSEPH SMITH, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., which letter is as follows:

"

August 11, 1940

Honorable J. Joseph Smith
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The enclosed magazine proves the patriotic stand of the "I Am" work and that all accusations against this 100% American activity are false. We know that you as a Representative do not approve of this gestapo method of handling decent honest Americans.

If the mails of the United States of America can be used by Communists and for the protection of Bridges, then the voice of the American people has a right to be raised to let this constructive activity of the "I Am" go forth to help our people against all destruction.

I am an American citizen and ask you to guard the rights of the American people for free speech, self defense, divine justice and the right to worship God as we choose.

I know you will make every effort to guard these rights for our people in the sacred duty of your office as a Representative of the people.

The treatment of the "I Am" activity, which has given only good, infringes on the constitutional rights of every honest American.

With blessings upon you and your activities, I remain

Very truly yours,

/s/ E. J. Wall
242 So. Harvard Blvd.
Los Angeles, Calif.

"Ascended Master Light" by LOTUS RAY KING presented to the Yale University by G. W. BALLARD, copyright 1938 by St. Germain Press, Post Office Box 113, Chicago, Illinois, contains a tribute and forward by GODFRE RAY KING and LOTUS RAY KING, and is a series of sermons and lectures by the "great cosmic being".

"The I Am Discourses" by GODFRE RAY KING presented to Yale University by G. W. BALLARD, copyright in 1940 by St. Germain Press, Post Office Box 113, Chicago, Illinois, contains author's appreciation by GODFRE RAY KING in which he expresses gratitude for the help of LOTUS RAY KING for editing the book, and to BETTY LUNDY for preparing the manuscript, and to ARTHUR BROOKS and MAE DA CAMARA for their painting of the "Magic Presence". There is also contained in this book an editor's note by LOTUS RAY KING and a tribute and forward by GODFRE RAY KING. The book contains 33 discourses said to have been "dictated over a visible light and sound ray".

"Psychic Dictatorship in America" by GERALD B. BRYANT, published by True Research Publications, 456 South Weston Avenue, Los Angeles, California, copyright 1940. The nature of this publication is indicated by the following phrase appearing in the preface; "This is a history and psychological study of one of America's most outstanding cults, and incredible story of the strangest dictatorship now current in our land".

It is reflected in the publication that GUY W. BALLARD is known as GUY GEORGE GODFRE RAY KING BALLARD; and EDNA W. BALLARD is known as EDNA ANNA WHEELER LOTUS RAY KING, as well as "Little Dynamite" and "CHANARA".

"The American Mercury", Volume L10, number 206, for February, 1941, contains an article appearing on page 167 entitled "The Lunitic Fringe of Religion. On pages 171 and 172 the writer deals with the "I Am" cult. "The American Mercury" is published by the American Mercury, Inc., Concord, New Hampshire, and this magazine has its editorial and general offices at 570 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

The Publishers Weekly of January 4, 1941, No. 1, published by the R. R. BAKER Company, 19th and Federal Streets, Camden, New Jersey, with editorial offices at 62 West 45th Street, New York City, has an article appearing on page 42 entitled, "Borden Sues I Am Cult Leaders". This article states that the Borden Publishing Company of Los Angeles, California sued the "I Am" Cult charging that the Cult's publication, "Unveiled Mysteries", was copied from a book entitled, "A Dweller on Two Planets", written under the pen name of PHYLOS by the late FREDERICK S. OLIVER and copyrighted 1894. It is further reflected that LESLIE ROBERT OLIVER, the son of FREDERICK S. OLIVER, together with the Borden Publishing Company were the plantiffs in the suit and claimed that their copyright had been violated.

The New York Times of January 21, 1941, on page 7 column 8, contains an article in which it is reflected that the leaders of the "I Am" Cult were acquitted of charges brought against them as a result of alleged mail fraud.

In addition to the above publications furnished by Mr. FISHER, he advised under date of July 3, 1943, that he and his wife had reviewed material in their personal library which failed to reflect any literature on the "I Am" Cult. However, he stated that both he and Mrs. FISHER recalled very definitely having received literature in recent years.

Mr. FISHER further stated that he had a vague recollection that a meeting of the "I Am" Cult had been held in the Hotel Taft in New Haven, Connecticut, and as a result of such indication, MILTON T. CLARK, Assistant Manager of the Hotel Taft was contacted and advised that he had no recollection, nor did he have any record, that subject organization had ever conducted a meeting at the hotel.

In the New Haven Free Public Library, Miss EVELYN GERALDS searched the records of that library and produced all the records in the library's possession on the subject organization, a review of which, however, failed to reflect any material other than that contained in the material secured from the Yale University Library.

In an attempt to locate units of the "I Am" Cult operating in Connecticut, inquiry was made at Waterbury, Connecticut, by Special Agent CLARENCE H. GLOVER with negative results; by Special Agent LESLIE GRADY in Bridgeport, Connecticut, with negative results; by Special Agent THOMAS J. MC ANDREWS at New London, Connecticut, with negative results; and by Special Agent ROSWELL T. SPENCER at Greenwich and Stamford, Connecticut, with negative results.

The writer conducted inquiry at Hartford, Connecticut. On June 30, 1943, WILLIAM A. DOWER, Hartford Chamber of Commerce, 50 Lewis Street, advised that his office had no record of the subject organization. HARRY E. MUIR, of the Connecticut Council of Churches and Religious Education, 18 Asylum Street also advised that organization had no record of the "I Am" Cult. However, REV. JAMES E. ENGLISH of the Congregational House, 37 Gordon Street, stated that he recalled having heard that a unit of the "I Am" Cult at one time conducted meetings in the Brown-Thomson Building at 942 Main Street,

W. E. SHAW, Building Manager of the Brown-Thomson Building, advised that the "I Am" Cult maintains a meeting place in that building, which has been occupied by them for approximately three years. He stated that this room is not held under any lease, but merely on a month to month basis, and further advised that no records of rentals are kept and, therefore, he stated he was unable to indicate the exact period of time that the subject organization has operated a unit in the building. He stated that the rental is paid by check. However, he advised that he has never had occasion to note the name of the maker of the check, nor has he any record as to the bank upon which the checks are drawn.

He advised that a man by the name of CHAMPION and his wife were the leaders of the unit at Hartford, Connecticut, and he

stated that meetings are held by this unit on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, and also on certain Sundays during the year. SHAW advised that ERNST SULL, who is a painter by occupation and who maintains his residence in room 86 of the Brown-Thomson Building, was a member of the "I Am" Cult at Hartford, Connecticut. However, he stated that he knew of no other individuals who belonged to the organization.

A. D. HOOVER, elevator operator in the Brown-Thomson Building, advised that the "I Am" Cult, has its meeting place in that building, and is composed of very high type individuals for whom he has the utmost respect. He stated that there are approximately twenty-five members of this unit, of which E. W. CHAMPION and his wife are the leaders.

According to HOOVER, the Hartford Unit meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings and also on seven specifically designated Sundays throughout the year. He advised that the meetings are apparently of a religious nature, and stated that the organization maintains some kind of a phonograph reproducing machine on which organ music is played during the meetings. According to HOOVER, E. W. CHAMPION is in the insurance business at Hartford, Connecticut, and it is indicated in the city directory for Hartford, Connecticut, that his full name is EDGAR W. CHAMPION, and his wife's name is NETTA CHAMPION, employed as an examiner by the Aetna Insurance Co., and resides at 9 Wardwell Road in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Both SHAW and HOOVER speak very highly of CHAMPION and his wife and further indicated that the members of the "I Am" unit of Hartford, Connecticut, were all individuals of good repute in regard to whom no derogatory information had ever come to their attention.

It was indicated by HOOVER that the unit in Hartford, Connecticut had originally been started by the mother-in-law of E. W. CHAMPION, whose name HOOVER did not know. He stated that CHAMPION's mother-in-law had resided on the West Coast at one time, where it was believed she was introduced to the "I Am" Cult, and upon moving to Hartford, Connecticut, instituted a unit.

Further investigation in regard to the unit of the subject organization operating in Hartford, Connecticut, was made by Special Agent EDGAR C. PARKHURST, and reflects that NETTA CHAMPION, the wife of EDGAR W. CHAMPION, is the leader of the Hartford unit which is said to comprise approximately thirty-five members and to be financed by contributions from such members.

It is stated that the Hartford unit does not make any donations to the headquarters of the "I Am" Cult, and receives no financial aid from the headquarters. It is claimed that the Hartford unit is a national organization of a religious, patriotic character.

Information obtained from the Better Business Bureau by Special Agent PARKHURST reflected that the contributions of the members of the Hartford unit of the "I Am" Cult take care of the expenses of that unit, and the members of the unit are drawn from all forms of religious organizations without discrimination.

It was determined by Special Agent EDGAR C. PARKHURST that EDGAR W. CHAMPION carries his bank account at the Phoenix State Bank and The Society For Savings in Hartford, Connecticut. He is said to have an annual income of approximately $3,000, and is presently about fifty years of age. He has been employed by the Aetna Fire Insurance Company for twenty-five years, and prior to residing at 9 Wardwell Road in West Hartford, Connecticut, he lived at 29 Penn Drive, West Hartford, and also at Farmington, Connecticut. His credit record is reported to be good.

Special Agent EDGAR C. PARKHURST contacted W. E. SHAW, Superintendent of the Brown-Thomson Building, who indicated to Special Agent PARKHURST that he had received instructions to keep out of the room occupied by subject organization in the Brown-Thomson Building, and he further advised that the organization does its own janitor work, and that he has been instructed to keep out of the room except in cases of emergency.

The reference report of Special Agent JOHN J. BRACKEN set forth a lead for the New Haven Field Office to make inquiry at Local Board 2-B, Hartford, Connecticut, relative to the Selective Service registration of an individual by the name of PAUL H. STICKELL. It is indicated in such reference report that he had registered for the draft at Local Board 2-B, Hartford, Connecticut, according to information furnished by Local Board 91 located at 1547 East 79th Street, Chicago, Illinois. KENNETH L. HENDERSON of Local Board 2-B, 249 High Street, advised that the Board had no record of the registration of an individual by the name of PAUL H. STICKELL, or any similar name.

In connection with the reference report of Special Agent JOHN J. BRACKEN, it is noted undeveloped leads are set out for the Chicago Field Division to conduct investigation as to the identity and background and activities of GODFRE RAY KING, LOTUS RAY KING, and DONALD RAY KING, and as indicated herein, such names

are the aliases of GUY W. BALLARD, EDNA W. BALLARD, AND DONALD BALLARD.

A check of the indices of the New Haven Field Office fails to reflect any previous information received in connection with the subject organization.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

CHICAGO FIELD OFFICE

At Chicago, Illinois

Will attempt to develop further information in regard to the Selective Service Registration of PAUL H. STICKELL in view of the fact that investigation conducted would indicate the possibility of a Selective Service violation on the part of such individual.

Copies of this report are being designated for the Los Angeles and San Francisco Field offices for the information of such offices in view of possible further investigation requested by the Office of Origin.

100-7575

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

CHICAGO FIELD OFFICE

At Chicago, Illinois

Will attempt to develop further information in regard to the Selective Service Registration of PAUL H. STICKELL in view of the fact that investigation conducted would indicate the possibility of a Selective Service violation on the part of such individual.

Copies of this report are being designated for the Los Angeles and San Francisco Field offices for the information of such offices in view of possible further investigation requested by the Office of Origin.

tok

This Case Originated At: EL PASO, TEXAS File No. 100-7575

| Report Made At: | Date When Made | Period | Made By: |
|---|---|---|---|
| NEW HAVEN, CONN. | 8/9/43 | 6/22,23,25,30, 7/1,15/43 | JOHN J. TROST. |

| Title: | Character: |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, A Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

Synopsis: Survey of State of Connecticut reflects only one "I Am" unit operating at Hartford, Conn., which is composed of approximately twenty-five persons under the leadership of E. W. CHAMPION and wife. Material in files of Yale University Library on subject organization reviewed, as well as material in New Haven Free Library. Local Board 2-B, Hartford, Conn., has no record on PAUL H. STICKELL.

- R U C -

REFERENCES: Report of Special Agent JOHN J. BRACKEN dated May 20, 1943, at Chicago, Illinois.
Bureau letter to the El Paso Field Division dated June 15, 1943.

DETAILS: At New Haven, Connecticut

Mrs. MARGARET M. HOHL of the Better Business Bureau of the New Haven Chamber of Commerce advised that her organization had no record on the "I Am" Cult, or any of the individuals connected with the organization.

Inquiry was made with negative results at the New Haven Credit Bureau and at the Retail Credit Company. Further inquiry was made at the New Haven Council of Churches, 53 Wall Street, where SELDON B. HUMPHREY advised that his organization had no

| Approved | SAC |
|---|---|
| | |

(5) Bureau
4 El Paso (1 MID, Ft. Sam Houston)
1 Los Angeles (Info)
2 Chicago
1 San Francisco (Info)
2 New Haven

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/3/82 BY SP3D/mj

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS

FILE NO. 100-5685

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Portland, Oregon | 8-19-43 | 7-12,13,16,19,20,21,22,23,24,27-43 | HAROLD H. BOYCE |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: "I AM" reading room and sanctuary of Portland located at 1208 S. W. Fourth Avenue in the Italian Federation Hall, Inc., building. Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS is group leader of membership of approximately 200 and was in attendance at trial in Los Angeles of Mrs. EDNA BALLARD and son, DONALD BALLARD. Her son, ALFRED JOHNS, now in U. S. Army, attended "I AM" school in Los Angeles. Investigation reflects Mrs. JOHNS and membership very loyal to Mrs. EDNA BALLARD and "I AM" principles. Witnesses not cognizant of any subversive activities or seditious statements ever made by known members of Portland "I AM" group. Background, past and present activities of group leader and assistants set forth. Mail cover placed.

- P -

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943

DETAILS: At Portland, Oregon:

Confidential Informant T-1 advised that she was a member of the Portland branch of the "I AM" cult from the latter part of 1940 through 1942 and has attended since the last date only spasmodically. Official headquarters of the cult moved from Los Angeles to Santa Fe, New Mexico, the early part of 1942. The "I AM" organization has branches, called groups, in most principal cities of the United States. The national organization is headed by Mrs. EDNA BALLARD, known as "The Divine Messenger." One PAUL H. STICKEL is known as "The Messenger," replacing DONALD BALLARD, who is in the armed forces and the son of Mrs. EDNA BALLARD. PAUL H. STICKEL came to Portland the early part of 1940, at which time Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS was made

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: R. L. Brunell SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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group leader. The members are divided into sections, "The Beginners" who have to attend eight classes in order to become members of the other section, "The 100 Per Centers." All members must refrain from eating meat, drinking liquor or coffee or other stimulants, as well as refrain from wearing black or red or having sexual relations. The source of income is from donations made to "Love Gift Boxes" and the selling of literature, books, and phonograph records, namely "Unveiled Mysteries," "The Magic Presence," "The Voice of 'I AM'," and others. Other sources of income are from the sale of pictures of Jesus, "The Ballards," and gods and godesses of the "I AM" cult. Income is also received from selling lapel pins, such as "American flags" and a pin of a gold harp with the words "I AM" inscribed thereon. All members are called students and are required to have a membership card which they must present upon entering the "sanctuary," which is also known as the "reading room."

ACTIVITIES IN PORTLAND

Confidential Informant T-1 further advised that the sanctuary and reading room in Portland was located at 714 S. W. Madison during 1940 and moved to its present location, 1208 S. W. Fourth Avenue, in the Italian Federation Hall, Inc., building. This move was made in 1941.

ANDREW S. BOITANO, 513 Weatherby Building, manager of the Italian Federation Hall, Inc., advised that Mrs. C. M. JOHNS signed a lease February 1, 1941, which expires January 31, 1944, for the rent of the balcony and the entire second floor, for which she pays $70 per month, the lease setting forth that this part of the building is to be used for conducting activities of the "I AM" sanctuary. Mr. BOITANO further stated that the rent is paid by the personal check of CLARE M. JOHNS on the First National Bank of Portland.

The sanctuary is all decorated lavishly in purple and white and continually filled with fresh flowers. It consists of an altar and a piano nearby, with a seating capacity of approximately 300. The walls are decorated with religious pictures, similar to other churches. Mr. BOITANO added that during the time the "I AM" group has rented from him he has never been contacted by anyone other than Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS, and he has observed no subversive activities reflected in any of Mrs. JOHNS' activities around the building, adding that she has a son, ALFRED JOHNS, in the United States Air Corps, of whom she appears to be extremely proud.

Confidential Informant T-1 further advised that Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS, the group leader, had told her there were approximately 200 members in the Portland group and approximately 80 per cent of these were "100 Per Centers," who had signed the "I AM" pledge. Donations are never directly asked for, and in her talks the group leader continually refers to "Love Gift Boxes" on the table at the rear of the sanctuary. The members appear to be liberal in their donations. However, Confidential Informant T-1 advises she cannot estimate the average amount taken in and has no knowledge of what portion, if any, is sent to "I AM" headquarters, as the group leader never discusses those things with the students. In the rear of the sanctuary is a table where pamphlets selling for thirty-five cents, books selling for $3.00, phonograph records also selling for $3.00, pictures selling for various prices, and lapel pins also selling at various prices are located.

The group leader's mother, a widow named Mrs. MARY GIBONEY, attends all meetings, assists the group leader, and cleans up the sanctuary.

Meetings are held every night and usually follow this schedule: Monday night, "100 Per Centers"; Tuesday night, "Beginners"; Wednesday night, a regular meeting is held at which time the book, "Unveiled Mysteries," is passed out to prospective members; Thursday and Friday nights, same as Wednesday night; Saturday night, a meeting for young students under thirty years of age; Sunday night, another regular meeting.

Each student is required to have a membership card which must be shown to the doorman, WARREN SINEX. WARREN SINEX and his brother, DONALD SINEX, are now in the United States Army. Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] SINEX, their parents and "100 Per Centers," have moved to Los Angeles. Each membership card has the student's name, setting forth the bearer as a student of "I AM", the date, and is signed by Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS, group leader. No charge is made for these membership cards.

Only white people ever attend these meetings, and Confidential Informant T-1 has never observed any Negroes, Orientals, or any foreigners in attendance.

4111 Stephens St

San Diego Calif. Aug,4th 1943

Mr J Edgar Hoover.

69338

Dear Sir,

While our men are winning the war abroad,we are losing it at home,as is evidenced by the reversal of the decision of the Appelate Court in the "1 Am" case,the Government versus Edna Ballard and others.

You will recall from my correspondence with you,that I hoped to persuade you to investigate the mental and emotional facts of this case,as well as the material ones. I realized fully at the time how this would appear to you,knowing that in all our past history material facts were all that were essential to any case. Since that time nation after nation has fallen,through well educated talented people in high positions,being taken over mentally and emotionally by organizations such as the "I AM."

The first step of the Nazi and Fascist,has always been mental aggression ,followed by emotional aggression,then the material fact presented itself- the aggression upon the country.

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-56242-99

The material fact is always the outcome of the mental and emotional fact.Today we cannot wait for the material fact( the aggression upon our Country ). We have to strike at the mental and emotional conditions before they become material facts.

4 AUG 12 1943

What has this organization done to the people who follow it,are they good citizens,. do theprecepts of the order build up the country or tear it down etc.?

lt is organizations such as the "l AM" with its hypnotic operations that changed men like Petain and Laval and others into traitors, well educated talented men and women of the United States are members of this organization,and many are in high positions and places of trust, check my message to you in care of Mr Hodd while you were here on the coast, then read back in my letters to where Mrs Ballard said she would be freed if convicted and how,it turned out just that way. Her followers beleived it was the "Mighty l AM Presence" that did it ,and now there are three million people ready to do her bidding when she is ready to strike, which will be immediately after the next trial if she is freed.

There is no use in going into the past only insofar as it protects us from making mistakes in the future.

Your agent Mr Reed called on me about three weeks ago,with a request for what information l could obtain on the "l AM " movement.l am very glad to be of assistance. l made contacts and secured information as to who the leaders were,and what was going on.

Through factual findings I learned the same leaders are in operation today as were when the Ballards were openly active, unshaken because the Mighty "I AM" presence freed them.

Mr and Mrs Ensor he a formen Christian Science Reader ,she a teacher of Art in our Public Schools are the heads of the order today,as they were when Mrs Ballard was permitted to operate openly.They have just returned to this city after spending two years in Colorado with Mrs Ballard,I learn from the head of the order in Coranado that they are all going north to Laguana Beach for a Conclave soon.

The following is some information just brought to me.

Hazel Davis and Jessie Weiseman,telephone operators in the San Diego Gas and Light Co,are very active,and have always aspired to be leaders particularly Jessie Weiseman,she gave up all she had and followed Mrs Ballard to Colarado,my information is that she is back in her old position in the Gas Co,this was given to me from one of the sub-station operators.These two women know where every part of the Gas Company's equipment is located,have contact with the leading men & women in the entire organization. -Where do these "William Dudley Pelley" trained operators strike when they strike to cripple a nation?.

I would suggest that agents be sent all around Boulder Dam to find out how many workers Mrs Ballard knew there to asertain how great a danger the

Dam is in, her actions in gathering her forces now, shows how secure she feels, she will make every attempt to gain an early trial- she must be forestalled as long as possible in order to gain the information throughtout the country, as to who is in this organization and what positions they are holding, there must be time to gather the necessary mental and emotional facts of this case ,so when it goes to trial they can be incorporated in the prosecution , that should be easy , for the foundation of the case is fraud.

Sincerely yours,

E. Leta Hoskins.
4111 Stephens St
Jackson 1653.

E. LETA HOSKINS

The group leader never performs marriages and preaches sex restraint. The group leader often spoke on the horrors of war and, prior to the United States entering into the conflict, was opposed to the Government's policy of assisting other nations involved in the war. The group leader also often spoke against Communism and in her sermons or in private conversations never objected to conscription and, on the other hand, openly appeared proud of her son, ALFRED JOHNS, serving in the United States Air Corps and who was inducted from Los Angeles where he had been attending the "I AM" school for two or three years. The group leader often spoke of her father, now deceased, who was formerly a Presbyterian minister at Spokane, Washington.

Confidential Informant T-1 further relates that the group leader, Mrs. JOHNS, was in attendance at the trial of Mrs. EDNA BALLARD and her son, DONALD BALLARD, held in Los Angeles and remarked upon her return that the BALLARDS were being persecuted and the whole thing was a miscarriage of justice. Every year the group leader made several trips to Los Angeles and a man named CARL JOHNS, who is the "I AM" violinist, and his wife, ZOE JOHNS, pianist and singer, conducted the meetings, assisted by Mrs. MARY GIBONEY, in the absence of the group leader. CARL and ZOE JOHNS are not relatives of the group leader, having a similar name only.

A Mrs. LAURA D. STONE, who is official court reporter for Multnomah County District Court #5, Judge LOUIS P. HEWETT presiding, is a driving force in the "I AM" group of Portland, being active in obtaining members, making transcripts of meetings, and such. A registered nurse by the name of SYBIL WALKUP, who lived in the same apartment house as the group leader at the Rose-Friend Apartments, 1307 S. W. Broadway, was also formerly a driving force in the "I AM" group. Approximately one year ago she became violently insane and is now in the Oregon State Insane Asylum at Salem, Oregon.

Confidential Informant T-1 concluded by stating she cannot identify the general run of students except by sight, as she has not been in constant attendance and is looked down upon by members that have adhered to the principles and the pledge of the "I AM" cult. Confidential Informant T-1 is of the opinion that if any of the active members are approached they would immediately contact the group leader, as this topic has often been discussed by the group leader, who has instructed them to report to her anyone trying to obtain information relative to any activities that take place in their sanctuary without becoming members.

NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATION OF GROUP LEADER

(a) Sanctuary

The sign appearing over the door at 1208 S. W. Fourth Avenue is as follows: "I AM Reading Room and Sanctuary."

E. O. RYERSON at 718 S. W. Madison, whose store is next door to the former location of the "I AM" sanctuary at 714 S. W. Madison, advised that the sanctuary moved away over two years ago, and he never became acquainted with the Mrs. JOHNS who operated the establishment because he figured it was some kind of racket and they never traded with him. He could offer no information relative to the activities that took place while they were next door.

Mrs. E. R. NEWLIN, manager of the building located at 714 S. W. Madison, stated that the "I AM" sanctuary moved from her building the latter part of 1941 and was operated by Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS, who is still the leader, and has moved the location to the Italian Federation Building at Fourth and Madison. Mrs. NEWLIN could not provide any information as to the activities of Mrs. JOHNS or the "I AM" group, stating that she never attended any meetings or had she ever been approached to attend, and as Mrs. JOHNS always paid her rent promptly she had taken no other interest in her activities.

FRANK DEMARINAS, who operates the Rome Cafe, 1200 S. W. Fourth Avenue and directly underneath the present location of the "I AM" sanctuary, advised the "I AM" group had been located upstairs for approximately two years and never frequented his cafe, apparently because he sells beer. He states that he has observed many people attend these meetings, which are conducted every night. Most of the patrons are women, who are always dressed up in light colored evening gowns. Approximately a year and a half ago the woman who runs the "I AM" group hung a flag up in the window upside down, apparently by mistake. Due to the fact that Mr. DEMARINAS is an Italian, several of his customers jumped him about this, and he explained to them that it was not his flag and remarked to the woman that headed the "I AM" group of this mistake and she immediately hung it correctly. Mr. DEMARINAS added that he has never observed any Italians attending any of these meetings and it is his opinion that things are much better for everyone in the building since the "I AM" group has taken over the hall because prior to that it was rented for dances which

were sometimes attended by persons who would get in fights and get drunk and cause trouble in the vicinity. Mr. DEMARINAS has no knowledge of any of the activities that take place in the "I AM" sanctuary and states that the leader is the only one that has a key, the cleaning being done by the leader's elderly mother.

Mr. A. W. NEW, 1214 S. W. Fourth Avenue, who operates New Brothers' Portland Marble Works, advised that he had no information as to what actually took place in the "I AM" sanctuary as he has never been inside and knows of no one in the neighborhood that has ever been inside the sanctuary. He said that there is a continuous flow of women going in and out during the day bringing flowers, most of these women being dressed in gay colors and being of all ages. He could not identify any of them. Like the neighbor, Mr. DEMARINAS, he expressed appreciation of the fact that the sanctuary was located there instead of public dances, which formerly cluttered up the front of his business establishment with liquor bottles.

(b) Residences of Group Leader

Prior to Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS present residence at the Rose-Friend Apartments, 1307 S. W. Broadway, she resided at 4615 N. E. Sandy Boulevard.

Mr. E. L. EHLEN, 2126 N. E. 46th, who was in the rear of 4615 N. E. Sandy Boulevard, advised that Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS and her mother, Mrs. GIBONEY, sold their house on Sandy Boulevard and moved away two years ago and a local gas station is there now in its place. At the time Mrs. JOHNS and her mother resided there she worked for Mr. ROSS McINTYRE. She spoke of being from Spokane, Washington, and was the daughter of a Presbyterian minister, now deceased. She also spoke of having a son, ALFRED, going to school in California, and he recalls some mention of the son's being interested in aviation. Mr. EHLEN further advised that during their residence there of approximately eight years he had always considered them loyal, hard-working American citizens and never observed any subversive tendencies on the part of Mrs. JOHNS or her mother, Mrs. GIBONEY, nor did he ever hear them speak of being associated with the "I AM" religious cult.

Mr. L. C. KEATING, 2215 N. E. 47th Avenue, whose place is also in the rear of where Mrs. JOHNS' home was formerly located, reiterated the information obtained from his neighbor, Mr. E. L. EHLEN and could give no additional information.

Mrs. A. SCHROEDER, manager of the Rose-Friend Apartments, advised the reporting agent that Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS had resided in Apartment 19 for over eighteen months and claims to be a school teacher and is in charge of the "I AM" church. She added that Mrs. JOHNS informed her she is a widow and lives with her mother, Mrs. MARY GIBONEY. When they are not conducting church they stay quietly to themselves in their apartment and do not visit with other tenants. Mrs. SCHROEDER advised that she knows nothing of Mrs. JOHNS' private life and they do not supply Mrs. JOHNS with maid service. The son, ALFRED JOHNS, to her knowledge has never made an appearance since they have been residing there.

Mrs. FRED HESSE, Jr., in Apartment 14, states that she only has a speaking acquaintance with Mrs. CLARE JOHNS and her mother, Mrs. GIBONEY. She has observed that they dress beautifully and has always observed them taking lots of flowers to the "I AM" sanctuary, which they apparently receive from other followers of the church. During the trial of the BALLARDS in Los Angeles, Mrs. HESSE observed that Mrs. JOHNS was away, and she tied this fact up with newspaper articles appearing of the BALLARD trial, knowing that Mrs. JOHNS was leader of the "I AM" church in Portland. She added she has observed that Mrs. JOHNS appears to have lots of young girls hanging around, seems to have plenty of money, and she has occasionally observed some man all dressed in white carrying a violin case come to the apartment. On occasions Mrs. HESSE has heard typing being done in Mrs. JOHNS' apartment, usually in the daytime. She added that she has never observed any indication of subversive activities on the part of Mrs. JOHNS or her mother, and it has always been her opinion that the "I AM" religious movement was just another money grabbing racket.

Mrs. AXEL BARRY, Apartment 12, who is a sister-in-law of Mrs. FRED HESSE, Jr., reiterated approximately the same story as Mrs. HESSE, adding that there was a girl who formerly resided in the same apartment house, other than Mrs. LAURA STONE, who was a member of the "I AM" cult, but whose activities of consorting with men and drinking did not tie in with her understanding of the "I AM" teachings of not drinking and eating meat and of sexual restraint. She furnished the name of this individual, who has previously been referred to in this report as Confidential Informant T-1.

## FINANCIAL STATUS

Confidential Informant T-2 advised [redacted] b7D

[redacted]

[redacted]

Reverend CLAUDE P. SABIN, minister of the Mallory Avenue Christian Church, 126 N. E. Alberta Street, advised that his church was in need of an organ, and the Sherman Clay Music Company advised him that the "I AM" church had one for sale for $700. On approximately March 1, 1943, he contacted Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS and made arrangements to purchase an electric Everett Orgatron for $700. The church originally gave her $60 cash as a down-payment, then subsequently two other payments, one for $90 and one for $100, less $8.50 for repairs necessary on the organ. Subsequently, Mrs. JOHNS contacted him demanding the balance of $441.50, even though the 90 days allowed to pay for the organ was not up, claiming that she had to be out of town for a week and needed the money. A conference was held with the trustees of the church, and a check was given Mrs. JOHNS for the above-mentioned amount. Reverend SABIN states this is the only connection he has ever had with the "I AM" group and from his observation and dealings with Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS she appears to be very shrewd and leads a very free

life and appears to be financially well off. Reverend SABIN added that during his eight years in Portland he never heard of the "I AM" group until approximately three years ago and, as he has always more or less kept these types of churches and their activities under observation, he has never noticed any subversive activities connected with the "I AM" group in Portland, Oregon. From articles he has read in newspapers about the cult, Reverend SABIN states he has reached the conclusion that this organization is just another one of those church rackets.

## CRIMINAL RECORDS

A search of the indices of the Portland Police Department and the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office reflect no criminal records for Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS, Mrs. MARY GIL[illegible], CARL P. JOHNS, ZOE JOHNS, LAURA STONE, SYBIL WALKUP, Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] SINEX, DONALD or WARREN SINEX.

The indices of the Portland Police Department, however, do reflect that Mrs. CLARE G. JOHNS of 1307 S. W. Broadway reported on January 11, 1941, that a prowler had attempted to steal her purse by use of a stick being poked through the window. The indices of the Traffic Division of the Portland Police Department reflect that on March 13, 1941, CLARE G. JOHNS, 1307 S. W. Broadway, giving her occupation as a housewife having operator's license 4-R-174260, had been given a ticket for failure to make a boulevard stop at Fourth and Madison Streets, to which she plead guilty and paid a fine of $2.00.

## CREDIT RECORD

The indices of the Reporting Company, Panama Building, reflect that Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS resided since November, 1930, at 4615 N. E. Sandy Boulevard and is presently residing at 1307 S. W. Broadway. Her occupation in October, 1940, was office manager for the Columbia Foods Company, 133 S. W. Madison, receiving a salary of $150 per month. On February 7, 1941, the indices reflect that Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS was starting a study group at the Italian Federation Building located at 1203 S. W. Fourth. Mrs. JOHNS claims to be a widow of HARRY G. JOHNS. However, information received by the Credit Bureau reflects that she was divorced from HARRY G. JOHNS in May, 1938. However, no record could be found by the Credit Bureau in the Multnomah County Clerk's Office of any divorce proceedings. It further

set forth that Mrs. JOHNS taught bookkeeping and accounting in public schools during the night session. The credit rating of MARY M. GIBONEY and Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS was noted to be satisfactory with credit experience limited.

PAST EMPLOYMENT

Mr. and Mrs. ROSS McINTYRE, 2739 N. E. Alameda, former owners of the McMarr Stores and Columbia Food Company, advised that Mrs. CLARE JOHNS worked for them as a bookkeeper from 1929 up to 1940 and was an exceptionally good accountant and at the time she left their employ was receiving $250 per month. Besides working for them, she was engaged teaching night school in the public schools and along somewhere between 1938 and 1940 she first started talking about this "I AM" business, which seemed to grow on her like a cancer. She finally became so enthralled with this "I AM" business that the McINTYRES had to let her go, as she was continually taking leave of absence and going to Los Angeles and even had her son ALFRED attending the "I AM" school in Los Angeles. At first Mrs. JOHNS gave the excuse for going to Los Angeles as seeing her son, but it would later come out that she was studying the "I AM" teachings. The McINTYRES added that Mrs. JOHNS made extensive studies at home in psychology and psychoanalysis and told them that she divorced her husband HARRY when the boy ALFRED was just a baby. ALFRED is now approximately 21 years of age. Just before Mrs. JOHNS left their employ, she began wearing white, blue, and even gold dresses, didn't eat meat, and told the McINTYRES that only heathens eat meat. The McINTYRES added that Mrs. JOHNS formerly owned her own home on Sandy Boulevard at 46th Street and never at any time expressed any opposition to the stand the United States was taking in the war during 1940. In fact, they had always assumed that she was patriotic because she wore an American flag pin on her dress. They have not had any contact with Mrs. JOHNS since 1940 and they never have observed any un-American activities on her part. However, the McINTYRES expressed the opinion that Mrs. JOHNS and her mother, Mrs. GIBONEY, would place the "I AM" principles ahead of those of her country if called upon to do so. The McINTYRES said that to their knowledge Mrs. JOHNS nor her mother had never made any trips to Europe nor outside of the United States. At the time she was in their employ, she was affiliated with the Democratic Party and often spoke of her father's being a Presbyterian minister in Spokane, Washington. The McINTYRES ended up by saying that in their opinion Mrs. JOHNS is a very shrewd, clever woman, but has been taken financially by the "I AM" cult.

HAZEL WASS, secretary of the Portland school board, advised that CLARE M. JOHNS taught evening classes in bookkeeping and accounting from September, 1932, to May, 1939, receiving $3.00 per day compensation. She was born, according to their records, at Oregon City, Oregon, February 28, 1891, was graduated from the Spokane, Washington, High School in 1909, and received her B. S. degree in 1921 from the Oregon Institute of Accountancy. She gave as a reference a Mr. A. M. GRAY, who was supervisor of the public schools evening school and who rated her on her efficiency report as very good. Mr. GRAY died in 1941.

E. E. TURLEY, president of the Pacific Business College, Inc., 1017 S. W. Washington, advised that CLARE JOHNS taught bookkeeping in his establishment from February, 1942, to July, 1942, receiving $3.00 per day, and gave her reason for resigning as going in business for herself operating a reading room. Mr. TURLEY added she appeared to be a very capable business-like woman and a good instructor and never while in his employ ever indicated any tendencies which might reflect un-American or pro-Axis activities.

The indices of the Oregon Shipbuilding Corporation reflect that CARL PHILLIP JOHNS, previously mentioned in this report as being the violinist for the "I AM" cult, resides at 1603 S. E. Ladd Avenue, has badge #35991, social security #541-20-9841, wife, ZOE M. JOHNS, born Sunbury, Pennsylvania, November 21, 1891. His usual occupation is given as a violin teacher and formerly employed by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as an agent in Portland. He was hired April 4, 1942, as a burner, received $1.20 per hour, and resigned October 1, 1942.

## MISCELLANEOUS

H. A. COPPLE, chief clerk of Ration Board #2, advised that CLARE M. JOHNS, 1307 S. W. Broadway, drives a 1939 Hudson sedan, motor number 9145983, with California license plates for 1942, 3-5-5629 and has Oregon sticker number 306-410. She has not made application for supplemental gas.

JOE HUTCHINSON of the City License Bureau, Portland, advises there is no record of the "I AM" religious organization or of CLARE M. JOHNS obtaining a license, as this type of business is not required to have a license in the city of Portland.

MARGARET KLEES, deputy county clerk, Multnomah County, informed the reporting agent that there is no record of CLARE M. JOHNS or of any person connected with the "I AM" church registered. She added that only ministers and those who perform marriages are required to register.

A review of the Portland Field Division file 100-3952 entitled Communist Party USA, Twelfth District, Portland Field Division, was made relative to the "I AM" cult and all known members mentioned in instant report with negative results.

## MAIL COVER

On July 23, 1943, the thirty day mail cover was placed on the business establishment at 1208 S. W. Fourth, the "I AM" sanctuary, and the residence of Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS and MARY GIBONEY located at 1307 S. W. Broadway. Up to the date of the writing of instant report, two letters have been received addressed to Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS, 1307 S. W. Broadway, number one an Army letter containing no return address, but postmarked Yorkton, Saskatchewan, July 20, 1943, 7:00 p.m. Number two is a registered letter #13 from Lt. REUBEN D. SINEX, C. C., 0-1105187, 812th Eng. Avn. Bn., APO 626, c/o P. M., Miami.

## DESCRIPTIONS

The following descriptions were obtained from interview with the various witnesses interviewed during the investigation of this case.

CLARE M. JOHNS

| | |
|---|---|
| Sex | Female |
| Color | White |
| Age | 52 |
| Date of birth | February 28, 1891 |
| Place of birth | Oregon City, Oregon |
| Height | 5' 9" |
| Weight | 155 |
| Hair | Short black, graying |
| Eyes | Dark brown |

| | |
|---|---|
| Complexion | Medium |
| Build | Medium, matronly |
| Scars and marks | None visible |
| Peculiarities | Walks very straight<br>Speaks exceptionally good English<br>Dresses in light shades |

Mrs. MARY GIBONEY

| | |
|---|---|
| Sex | Female |
| Color | White |
| Age | 79 |
| Height | 5' 4" |
| Weight | 180 |
| Hair | Dark, streaked with gray |
| Eyes | Dark brown<br>Wears rimless glasses |
| Build | Stocky |
| Complexion | Medium |
| Scars and marks | None visible |
| Peculiarities | Waddles when she walks |

CARL PHILLIP JOHNS

| | |
|---|---|
| Sex | Male |
| Color | White |
| Age | 52 |
| Date of birth | November 21, 1891 |
| Place of birth | Sunbury, Pennsylvania |
| Height | 5' 10 3/4" |
| Weight | 140 |
| Hair | White |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Build | Medium |
| Scars and marks | None visible |
| Peculiarities | Very stooped<br>Carried head to the left |
| Occupation | Violin teacher and<br>shipyard worker |
| Social security # | 541-20-9841 |
| Wife | ZOE M. JOHNS<br>1603 S. E. Ladd, Portland, Oregon |

"I AM" CULT - INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ZOE M. JOHNS

| | |
|---|---|
| Sex | Female |
| Color | White |
| Age | 47 |
| Height | 5' 7" |
| Weight | 150 |
| Hair | Dark brown |
| Eyes | Brown |
| Complexion | Medium |
| Scars and marks | None visible |
| Peculiarities | Very nice speaking voice<br>Wears dresses very short |
| Occupation | Singer and housewife |
| Husband | CARL PHILLIP JOHNS<br>1603 S. E. Ladd, Portland |

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

The Portland Field Division

At Portland, Oregon:

Will recontact Confidential Informant T-1 and obtain any additional information which she may have which may be pertinent to instant investigation

Will report the results of the mail cover placed on the location of the "I AM" sanctuary, 1208 S. W. Fourth Avenue, and the residence of the group leader, CLARE M. JOHNS, 1307 S. W. Broadway

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

Confidential Informant T-1 is [redacted] telephone [redacted] b7D

[redacted]

Confidential Informant T-2 is [redacted]

[redacted]

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS

FILE NO. 100-5635

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Portland, Oregon | 8-19-43 | 7-12,13,16,19,20,21,22,23,24,27-43 | HAROLD H. BOYCE |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: "I AM" reading room and sanctuary of Portland located at 1503 S. W. Fourth Avenue in the Italian Federation Hall, Inc., building. Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS is group leader of membership of approximately 200 and was in attendance at trial in Los Angeles of Mrs. EDNA BALLARD and son, DONALD BALLARD. Her son, ALFRED JOHNS, now in U. S. Army, attended "I AM" school in Los Angeles. Investigation reflects Mrs. JOHNS and membership very loyal to Mrs. EDNA BALLARD and "I AM" principles. Witnesses not cognizant of any subversive activities or seditious statements ever made by known members of Portland "I AM" group. Background, past and present activities of group leader and assistants set forth. Mail cover placed.

- P -

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943

DETAILS: At Portland, Oregon:

Confidential Informant T-1 advised that she was a member of the Portland branch of the "I AM" cult from the latter part of 1940 through 1942 and has attended since the last date only spasmodically. Official headquarters of the cult moved from Los Angeles to Santa Fe, New Mexico, the early part of 1942. The "I AM" organization has branches, called groups, in most principal cities of the United States. The national organization is headed by Mrs. EDNA BALLARD, known as "The Divine Messenger." One PAUL H. STICKEL is known as "The Messenger," replacing DONALD BALLARD, who is in the armed forces and the son of Mrs. EDNA BALLARD. PAUL H. STICKEL came to Portland the early part of 1940, at which time Mrs. CLARE M. JOHNS was made

| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |
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August 30, 1943

68337

Miss E. Leta Hoskins
4111 Stephens Street
San Diego, California

#225,140

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/10/81 BY SP2 BJD/MP

Dear Miss Hoskins:

Your letter of recent date is before me for acknowledgment.

I have carefully noted the content of your communication and wish to thank you for bringing the information contained therein to my attention.

In the event you obtain any information which you believe to be of interest to this Bureau, I trust you will feel free to communicate directly with the Special Agent in Charge of our San Diego Field Division which is located at 720 San Diego Trust and Savings Bank Building, San Diego, California.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson CC: San Diego, with copy of incoming.
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Neagle
Miss Gandy

U S DEPT OF JUSTICE
F B I
RECEIVED READING ROOM
AUG 30 5 47 PM '43

28 SEP 2 1943

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 100-1407

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| DENVER, COLORADO | 9-1-43 | 8-18,20,1943 | VS HARRY W. MC MILLEN |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT - A Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY (C) SEDITION. |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: No indication subject organization active in Casper, Wyo. Organization located at 603½ N. Main St., in Pueblo, Colo., being rented by the local leader, Mrs. EVERETT BOERRIGTER, for the past 3½ years. Mr. BOERRIGTER also at one time active in the organization. BOERRIGTER's not known to have made un-American remarks. Organization not active at present time in Pueblo, Colo.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent DONALD W. GERE, Denver, Colo., 7-28-43.

DETAILS: AT CASPER, WYOMING:

Inquiry was made of Acting Chief of Police W. C. MILLER, who stated he had never heard of the subject organization and does not believe it exists in Casper.

Inquiry was also made of Mr. LAIRD of the Casper Credit Exchange with negative results.

Mr. W. H. CARTER, American Legion Commander, stated he had never heard of the subject organization in Casper.

Doctor BREAM, Head of the Ministerial Association, advised that he is quite sure that this religious cult is not active in Casper and, in fact, he has never heard of it.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: Gordon A Nease SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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62-16072-101

30 SEP 6 1943

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DVR 100-1407

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent HUGH M. BYRD:

AT PUEBLO, COLORADO:

From observation it was noted by the Agent that the Reading Hall and the Sanctuary of the "I AM" is located at 603½ North Main Street.

Mr. W. H. HAINES, Haines Book Store, 603 North Main Street, informed that subject organization has rented the floor above his store for some two years time. He stated that the person in charge of the building was one CHARLIE GALLAGER and that GALLAGER should be in a position to know the leader of the organization in Pueblo. HAINES stated that he had observed a few elderly ladies go in and out of the hall on occasions; that there is no regular meeting held in the hall to the best of his knowledge, and that he did not know the names of the people who did go in and out of the hall, however, the woman he described as the leader it was later learned is Mrs. EVERETT BOERRIGTER. HAINES further informed that he heard these few elderly ladies singing old songs occasionally in the hall in the past, but they did not even gather to sing at the present time. He said that he did not have any information as to the membership of the organization in Pueblo.

Mr. CHARLIE GALLAGER, 1230 Berkely Avenue, informed the Agent that he did have charge of renting the building where subject organization has their reading room and sanctuary. He stated that a Mrs. EVERETT BOERRIGTER of Pueblo was the local leader. He said that the organization has rented this space in the building for some three and one-half years time; that he has received his money promptly for the rent; that Mrs. BOERRIGTER is usually the person to pay him and that he is paid in cash or by some personal check. Mr. GALLAGER said that Mrs. BOERRIGTER's husband was also active in the organization in the past. He advised that Mrs. BOERRIGTER is not employed; that she apparently has devoted her entire time to the organization; that her husband has been employed in the past by the Government. He informed further that Mr. and Mrs. BOERRIGTER had been out of Pueblo for a number of months; that he understood they had been in Chicago. He also stated that the organization had at one time planned to cease renting the hall after July 31 of 1943, however, Mrs. BOERRIGTER has recently returned to Pueblo and she informed him that they desired to continue the use of the hall.

Mr. GALLAGER stated that he did not know how many members there were in the local organization. He added that some two years ago he did observe some fifty people at one meeting. He advised that he did not know whether the organization held meetings at the present time or not. He stated that one Mrs. WILLIAM LAMB, 1937 Lake Avenue, had also been active in the organization. He said that Mrs. LAMB's husband was employed

by the local steel mill. Mr. GALLAGER informed that Mrs. BOERRIGTER told him the organization was not a religious organization, but that they did "do good". He added that he had never heard Mrs. BOERRIGTER make any remarks which indicated she was not in sympathy with the United States Government or which indicated she favored any other form of Government.

Mrs. NORMA MOCK, 713 Elmhurst Place, advised the Agent that she has lived in the same neighborhood with Mrs. BOERRIGTER for some twenty years time. She said that Mrs. BOERRIGTER was formerly Mrs. FOSTER; that she later married Mr. BOERRIGTER after she "put him through school"; that he was much younger than she. She said that Mrs. BOERRIGTER was not commercially employed; that her husband had been employed by the Government in the past, and that she thought he held some job with the State Government. She further stated that prior to the time the organization "I AM" obtained a meeting place up town, meetings were held in the home of Mrs. BOERRIGTER which is located at 713 Elmhurst Place. She informed that these meetings would take place about once each week and that apparently a good number of people attended the meetings judging from the cars that were parked around the street. Mrs. MOCK said that she did not know anything else in regard to the organization or its members. She stated that she had never heard Mrs. BOERRIGTER make any remarks which indicated she was not loyal to the United States Government.

Mrs. W. H. VICE, 711 Elmhurst Place, informed Agent BYRD that Mrs. BOERRIGTER was born in Missouri; that she was married in the past to a Mr. FOSTER who was in the lumber business; that Mrs. BOERRIGTER has lived next door to her for some twenty years; that she was divorced from Mr. FOSTER and is now married to Mr. BOERRIGTER who was much younger than she. Mrs. VICE said that Mrs. BOERRIGTER formerly was a member of the Christian Church in Pueblo; that some four or five years ago she quit this church and then became a leader in the organization "I AM". She said that in the past the organization held meetings at the home of Mrs. BOERRIGTER; that they would have a meeting about once each week. She added that she did not know how many would attend these meetings but there were a number of cars to arrive at the time of the meetings. She also stated that she had observed the express trucks bring up literature and books to the home of Mrs. BOERRIGTER in the past; that these books would be sold to those who were members of the organization. She informed that the organization later secured a meeting place in downtown Pueblo. Mrs. VICE advised that Mrs. BOERRIGTER had been very active in the affairs of the organization; that she had made a trip to California to testify in court in connection with the organization. She said that she regarded Mrs. BOERRIGTER as being mentally unbalanced; that she had made the remark that she, Mrs. BOERRIGTER, would never die since she was too Holy. Mrs. VICE advised that she had never heard Mrs. BOERRIGTER make any remarks which were against our Government, that she had heard her discuss the present administration of our

Government in such a manner that she did in her own mind question the patriotism of Mrs. BOERRIGTER.

Mrs. VICE stated that Mrs. BOERRIGTER had recently returned to Pueblo from Chicago; that she had spent several months in Chicago. She added that she understood Mr. BOERRIGTER was now employed by Libby Packing Company; that he formerly was employed by the WPA in an administrative position.

The records of the Pueblo Mercantile and Credit Association revealed that Mr. EVERETT BOERRIGTER formerly worked as a plasterer; that he was later employed as the district supervisor of the Commodity Room of the PWA. This record also stated that in 1934 Mr. BOERRIGTER was employed as Relief Director for Kiowa County; this being in Colorado. In 1942 Mr. BOERRIGTER was employed at the Public Welfare Department in Pueblo. The record indicated that he and Mrs. BOERRIGTER were married at Raton, New Mexico in 1939; that she was then 45 years of age and he 38 years of age. This record indicated that in July of 1940 Mr. BOERRIGTER was the local leader of "I AM". The paying record of Mr. BOERRIGTER and Mrs. BOERRIGTER indicated that they had been slow and also satisfactory in paying their bills.

R. E. PRATT, Captain, Pueblo Police Department, and W. L. McDONALD, Detective, Pueblo Police Department, advised the Agent that they were not acquainted with the leaders of the organization nor did they have any information concerning the organization. It is to be noted that there is no police record on either Mr. or Mrs. BOERRIGTER.

- P E N D I N G -

DVR 100-1407

- UNDEVELOPED LEADS -

THE DENVER FIELD DIVISION:

*AT MONTROSE, COLORADO:

*Will interview CLYDE E. GARFIELD, Bolen Motor Company, for any information he may have concerning the activities of instant Cult, indicating that it may be subversive. Will contact other sources of information to determine extent of its activities.

*AT GUNNISON, COLORADO:

*Will interview G. LEWIS MILLER for information he may have concerning the activities of instant Cult indicating that it may be subversive.

*AT OURAY, COLORADO:

*Will contact sources of information to determine the extent of activites of this Cult in that area.

*AT CHEYENNE, WYOMING:

*Will contact sources of information to determine the extent of activities of this Cult in that area.

*AT DENVER, COLORADO:

*Will report further data received from sources of information in instant case.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS

FILE NO. 100-1437

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| [illegible], COLO. | 7-1-43 | 6-[illegible]-43 | [illegible] |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT - A Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY (C) CRITICAL. |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

No individual or subject organization active in Casper, Wyo. Organization located at 02[illegible] N. Main St., in Pueblo, Colo., being, rented by the local leader, Mrs. [illegible], for the past 2½ years. Mr. [illegible] also at one time active in the organization. [illegible] not known to have made un-American remarks. Organization not active at present time in Pueblo, Colo.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [illegible] CHAN, Denver, Colo., 7-2-43.

DETAILS: AT CASPER, WYO.

Inquiry was made of Acting Chief of Police H. O. [illegible], who stated he had never heard of the subject organization and does not believe it exists in Casper.

Inquiry was also made of Mr. [illegible] of the Casper Credit Exchange with negative results.

Mr. L. L. CARTER, American Legion Commander, stated he had never heard of the subject organization in Casper.

Doctor [illegible], Head of the Ministerial Association, advised that he is quite sure that this religious cult is not active in Casper and, in fact, he has never heard of it.

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| | | [illegible] RECORDED |

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DATE 12/4/42 BY SEE BDD/4

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 100-5685

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| PORTLAND, OREGON | 9/6/43 | 8/31/43 | HAROLD H. BOYCE |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Confidential Informant advises no additional information available at this time, and no indication of subversive activities in the Portland group. Results of mail cover set forth.

RUC

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent HAROLD H. BOYCE, Portland, Oregon, dated August 19, 1943.

DETAILS: AT PORTLAND, OREGON:

Confidential Informant T-1, who was referred to in the above referenced report, was contacted on August 31, 1943, and informant advised there is no additional information relative to the "I AM" group in Portland, Oregon at the present time. She advised further that she has made it a point to try and determine any subversive activities on the part of the Portland group as a whole or any of its members, and has found nothing that will reflect subversive tendencies.

During the time the 30-day mail cover was in effect, referred to in the referenced report, 18 letters were received at the address of the group leader, CLARE M. JOHNS, at 1208 S. W. 4th Avenue, Portland, Oregon and at 1307 S. W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon, and those determined to have any significance are set forth as follows:

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7-2034

Re: "I AM" CULT, a religious organization
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION

| To | From | Postmark | Miscellaneous |
|---|---|---|---|
| MRS. CLAIRE JOHNS, 1208 S.W. 4th Ave., Portland, Oregon. | No return address | Albuquerque, N.M. 8/19/43, 12:30 PM | Typewritten |
| MRS. CLARE M. JOHNS, 1307 S. W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon U.S. | Hotel Vancouver Vancouver, B. C. | Yorkton, 8/20/43 7 PM | By Airmail |
| MRS. C. JOHNS, St. Germain's - 'I Am' Corner 4th & Madison Portland, Oregon | MRS. M. C. YOUND Rt. 1, Box 262, Grants Pass, Oregon | Grants Pass, Oregon 8/12/43, 2:00 P.M. | — |
| CLARE M. JOHNS, 1307 S.W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon. | MRS. JESSIE BULLIS 209½ Seneca, Seattle, Washington. | Illegible, 1943 Washington | Probably Hoquiam Washington |
| C. M. JOHNS, 1307 S. W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon | New Age Laboratories 3173 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California | Los Angeles, Cal. 8/10/43, 6 PM | Typewritten, First Class Mail. |
| MRS. MARY M. GIBONEY 1307 S. W. Broadway, Rose Friend Apts., Portland, Oregon. | The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, Witherspoon Building, 1321 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. | Philadelphia, Pa. 7/30/43 | Printed. |
| MRS. CLAIRE JOHNS 1307 S. W. Broadway Portland, Oregon | Cpl. RICHARD B. OSWIN Co. G, AST Unit 3703 707 No. Dubuque, Iowa City, Iowa. | Iowa City, Iowa 7/31/43, 1:30 PM | — |
| MRS. CLAIRE JOHNS, 1307 S. W. Broadway Portland, Oregon | 1447½ Stout Street. Denver, Colorado | Denver, Colorado 7/26/43 8:00 PM | — |
| MRS. CLARE M. JOHNS 1307 S. W. Broadway Portland, Oregon | — No Return — | Hondo, Texas 7/27/43, 10 AM | On Reverse: Pfc. P. E. JOHNS GRR II, 43-12-4 Army Air Forces Navigation School Hondo, Texas |

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

Re: "I AM" CULT, a religious organization
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION

INFORMANT PAGE

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Confidential Informant T-1

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 100-5685

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| PORTLAND, OREGON | 9/6/43 | 8/31/43 | HAROLD H. BOYCE |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Confidential Informant advises no additional information available at this time, and no indication of subversive activities in the Portland group. Results of mail cover set forth.

RUC

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent HAROLD H. BOYCE, Portland, Oregon, dated August 19, 1943.

DETAILS: AT PORTLAND, OREGON:

Confidential Informant T-1, who was referred to in the above referenced report, was contacted on August 31, 1943, and informant advised there is no additional information relative to the "I AM" group in Portland, Oregon at the present time. She advised further that she has made it a point to try and determine any subversive activities on the part of the Portland group as a whole or any of its members, and has found nothing that will reflect subversive tendencies.

During the time the 30-day mail cover was in effect, referred to in the referenced report, 18 letters were received at the address of the group leader, CLARE M. JOHNS, at 1208 S. W. 4th Avenue, Portland, Oregon and at 1307 S. W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon, and those determined to have any significance are set forth as follows:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE 12/14/82 BY SP8 [illegible]

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO FILE NO. 100-10293

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| LOS ANGELES | 9/14/43 | 6/26,29; 7/8, 10,11,12/43. | RILEY LEE MILLARD MS |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, A Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: The Los Angeles headquarters of the "I AM" CULT is located at 3173 West Wilshire Boulevard in the studio of CHARLES SINDLAR who formerly handled all of the printing work for the organization. There are approximately 150 members of the cult in Los Angeles at the present time, and classes are held each morning at this address for new members. Approximately six or seven aged women attend these meetings. SINDLAR advised that he is dropping practically all active work with the group and intends to devote his time to painting and to his mining interest at Twenty-nine Palms, California. SINDLAR denied that the group was un-American in any respect.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11-6-98 BY SP6 [illegible]

REFERENCES: Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943.

DETAILS:

CHARLES SINDLAR was interviewed by subterfuge in his studio at 3173 West Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. SINDLAR advised that the headquarters of the "I AM" CULT were moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, more than a year ago. At that time, the Army took over his former studio at 2600 South Hoover Street, and all of the presses used by the cult, which were formerly under his supervision, were moved to Santa Fe. Since that time, SINDLAR has taken no active part in any of the publishing work of the cult

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and has steadily decreased his other activities, although he still makes drawings of Saint Germaine and Christ which are sold through the cult.

SINDLAR stated that there are about 150 members in Los Angeles at the present time, that they meet in his studio, and that classes are held for the benefit of new members. SINDLAR talked at some length explaining that "I AM" was strictly a religious organization founded on the teachings of the Bible and of Saint Germaine. He declared that the cult is un-American in no way and that every effort is being made to assist in the war effort. He stated that he, personally, has been assisting in locating members of the cult who were delinquent with their draft boards and that the BALLARDS are doing the same thing, as evidenced by DONALD BALLARD's enlistment. He stated that if the government would only realize that there is nothing wrong with the "I AM" CULT they would save themselves thousands of dollars. He stated that Mrs. BALLARD has spent at least $80,000 defending herself in the suits instituted by the government.

Concerning his own activity, SINDLAR stated that he is giving up practically all of his work in the cult, in order to devote his time to his former vocation of painting. He stated that he is leaving immediately for Twenty-nine Palms, California, for the purpose of handling his mining interest and painting.

Through physical surveillance, it was determined that classes are held each week day at 3173 West Wilshire Boulevard from approximately 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. About six or seven aged women attend these classes. The building at this address, which was obviously constructed as a home, is well maintained. The yards are cared for each morning by a yard man, and the American flag is flown from a fifty-foot flag pole which is in the center of the front yard. One or two persons were observed entering this address from time to time during the day, although no group gatherings, other than the ones mentioned, were noticed.

The following persons were interviewed in an attempt to obtain additional information concerning the present activities of this cult, with negative results:

W. HERBERT GROVT,
Minister of Education,
First Baptist Church,
Corner of West Eighth Street and West Moreland,
Los Angeles, California.

BURTIN B. WILCOX,
Personal Guidance Service,
First Baptist Church,
Los Angeles, California.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO

FILE NO. 100-12293

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| LOS ANGELES | 9/14/43 | 9/2,3,7/43, 10,11,13/43. | EILEY LEE WILLARD JR |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

The Los Angeles headquarters of the "I AM" CULT is located at 3173 West Wilshire Boulevard in the studio of CHARLES DIEHLAN who formerly handled all of the printing work for the organization. There are approximately 150 members of the cult in Los Angeles at the present time, and classes are held each morning at this address for new members. Approximately six or seven aged women attend these meetings. DIEHLAN advised that he is dropping practically all active work with the group and intends to devote his time to painting and to his mining interest at Twenty-nine Palms, California. DIEHLAN denied that the group was un-American in any respect.

- REFERRED

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943.

DATE 12/14/12 BY 560 RD/ps

DETAILS:

CHARLES DIEHLAN was interviewed by substance in his studio at 3173 West Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. DIEHLAN advised that the headquarters of the "I AM" CULT were moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, more than a year ago. At that time, the Army took over his former studio at 2630 South Hoover Street, and all of the presses used by the cult, which were formerly under his supervision, were moved to Santa Fe. Since that time, DIEHLAN has taken no active part in any of the publishing work of the cult

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Case originated at: EL PASO File No. 100-5694

| Report made at: | Date: | Period: | Report made by: |
|---|---|---|---|
| SAN FRANCISCO | 9/20/43 | 9/3,4,6/43 | LAMONT LUZERNE THOMPSON |

| Title: | Character of case: |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, A Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: The "I AM" CULT has two congregations active in the San Francisco Bay area with headquarters at 1337 Sutter, San Francisco and 3255 Grand Avenue, Oakland. No reports concerning subversive teachings or activities of these groups have been received in last year. Members of Cult are reported to be religious psychopaths. Meetings are strictly secret, and credentials are checked before permission to enter is granted. Investigation continuing.

- P -

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to El Paso dated June 15, 1943
Report of Special Agent EDWARD P. FERRIS dated July 16, 1943 at El Paso, Texas.

DETAILS: A review of the files of this office reveals that no information has been received in over a year alleging that subject organization is engaged in subversive activities in the San Francisco Bay area.

Approved and Forwarded: Special Agent in Charge

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A nearly illegible letter regarding the "I AM" CULT dated February 3, 1942 was received by this office. It is being set forth as follows for record purposes:

"FBI Men
Watch the "I Am" centre 1325 Sutter St. middle of block.

Full of Germans who fully supported "Hitler" all along.

Now they hide out via religion - fakirs.

Lots went to Phoenix Arizona. A hot spot.
Bless my new country America!

Fred & Wife & soldier son".

No further information confirming this semi-anonymous letter has been received by this office to date.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised on May 13, 1943 that an unidentified Australian seaman had discussed with him his experiences in trying to establish contact with the local "I AM" congregation. He said that he finally located a "nameless building" (he would not identify the building) in the city where the door "was guarded against the entry of the general public", and upon inquiry he was told when and where beginner classes were held. He enrolled in the beginners' classes, but did not like the general setup. He said that one must attend seven such classes before being selected as a recruit. He said that the class is led by a woman, the door attendants are women, the "judge" for the acceptance of recruits is a woman, the members are mostly women, and most of the officers look "peculiar". He concluded by stating that the indoctrination of beginners consisted primarily of listening to the teacher read from any of the Cult's books or magazines; and a great deal of time spent in repeating orally certain decrees and oaths of the "I AM".

b7D

It is possible that the "nameless building" referred to above was the "I AM" TEMPLE, 1337 Sutter Street, San Francisco. The telephone directory lists the "I AM" TEMPLE at this address, phone TUxedo 0668.

EAST BAY "I AM" CONGREGATION

Headquarters for the "I AM" CULT in the East Bay district is an old Masonic meeting hall at 3255 Grand Street, Oakland, California. The telephone directory lists an "I AM" Reading Room at this address, and gives the telephone number as HIgate 1008.

Up until the end of August 1943 the Cult was located in a club house at 124 Montecito Street in Oakland. On September 4, 1943 Mrs. OTIS BOSWORTH, 300 E. 19th Street, Oakland, house manager of this club house at 124 Montecito Street, was interviewed and advised that Mr. and Mrs. VIRGIL L. BROWN, organizers of the "I AM", resided for some time in the rear of the clubhouse at this address and she had frequent contact with them regarding business matters. Mrs. BOSWORTH stated that these individuals always appeared considerate, were prompt in their financial obligations, but were a "little peculiar". She advised that their peculiarity did not seem to be of a suspicious nature, but rather that it seemed to be a manifestation of a minor psychological quirk.

Mrs. BOSWORTH continued by stating that the only trouble she had had with them was on account of the raucous fervor with which their meetings were conducted. It was a frequent occurence, according to informant, to have the neighbors phone the police regarding disturbance of the peace due to their shoutings and noisy incantations. She pointed out that some teaching of the faith placed moral significances on certain colors, which resulted in having the Cult paint all red fixtures with green paint, and all the black fixtures in the kitchen were painted with aluminum paint.

Mrs. BOSWORTH further stated that the janitor of the building was a fervant member of the Cult, and she understands that he now resides in a room at the new headquarters at 3255 Grand Street. Regarding meetings of the Cult, she advised that there appears to be some sort of meeting nearly every afternoon and evening, and that most of them are closed affairs where one has to show some kind of credential to enter.

She concluded by stating that she does not know where Mr. and Mrs. VIRGIL BROWN now reside, but said that they formerly resided at 353 Grand Street, Oakland. It is her understanding that VIRGIL L. BROWN is chief organizer of the Cult in the East Bay.

By means of a pretext telephone call it was ascertained from a woman with a foreign accent at the "I AM" Reading Room in Oakland that the uninitiated could make use of both the Oakland and the San Francisco Reading Rooms on particular afternoons and evenings. It was intimated that someone is in attendance at these rooms until 10:00 PM each day, and that they will be pleased to indoctrinate any one who so desires.

- PENDING -

## UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SAN FRANCISCO FIELD DIVISION

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Will visit the reading room in the "I AM" TEMPLE, 1337 Sutter Street and determine what type of literature is being distributed at that center.

Through contacts made at the above reading room will endeavor to determine details of the "I AM" program as it develops in the San Francisco area.

AT OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

Will conduct a similar type of investigation at the reading rooms located at 3255 Grand Street.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

It should be noted that the above reference to [redacted] is taken from a [redacted] b7D

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS    Butte FILE NO. 100-48

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Butte, Montana | 10/12/43 | 7/6,8,28/43 9/28/43 | GEORGE P. RHOADES RJL |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Investigation discloses that membership of this organization in Missoula, Montana, is approximately seven, headed by Mrs. VICTORIA ANDERSON. Meeting place of the organization is room #20 of the Masonic Temple. Contacts advise that there is nothing of a subversive nature regarding the organization to their knowledge. Meetings held two or three times a week at which time those in attendance sing songs and repeat verses. Contacts advise organization built on the idea that if one wishes for something long enough it will be given him. Investigation continuing at Billings, Montana.

DATE 12/14/82 BY [illegible]

Reference: Bureau letter to El Paso, June 15, 1943.

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Details: AT MISSOULA, MONTANA

Mrs. MARION BRAYMAN, clerk of the Local Draft Board, advised that there have never been any indications in the questionnaires which were

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returned by registrants of that board to the effect that they were members of the I AM organization and consequently she could not advise whether this organization was opposed to the Selective Service Act or not. She advised, however, that she did know Mrs. HERMAN GERBER of Lolo Hot Springs, Montana, who was a member of the organization and who was in California during the Winter of 1942 and also in New Mexico in connection with the I AM organization.

Mrs. BRAYMAN advised that the organization was not identical with the Jehovahs Witnesses, however, she had friends who had relations that were members of the organization and she would advise the writer to contact Mrs. MARY S. BARTLETT who resides at Fort Missoula, Montana, and she was quite certain that Mrs. BARTLETT would advise of the present activities of the organization.

Mrs. BRAYMAN also advised that a member of Subject organization, to the best of her knowledge, was Mrs. OLE (VICTORIA) ANDERSON, who lives on the Target Range Road. She advised that Mrs. ANDERSON had just recently returned from a tour during which time she had visited California and New Mexico.

Mrs. BRAYMAN advised also that Mrs. ROSE KING, 501 Wilma Building, who runs a beauty parlor and Mrs. JAMES M. JENSEN, 224 South 5th Street, were also members of Subject organization.

In conclusion Mrs. BRAYMAN advised that she knew all of the above mentioned people and knew that they were absolutely 100% American and connected in no way with subversive activities. She advised, however, that in her opinion they had a very warped idea of religion.

Mrs. MARY S. BARTLETT advised that she had talked a great deal with Mrs. VICTORIA ANDERSON, who is leader of the group and who resided in the Orchard Homes District on Target Range Road. She advised that what she understood of the organization all the members were of the opinion that if a person wished for somthing long enough it will eventually be given him. She advised that the meetings are all very spiritual and the organization is very similar to that of the Unity Church and the organization known as "Truth," which is also a religious organization.

Mrs. BARTLETT advised that members of this organization seem to uphold the government very strongly and she is certain that they have the flag kept staning in their reading room at all times. She advised that all the members are vegetarians and they are not allowed to wear any color of red inasmuch as this denotes danger and excitement and they are not allowed to wear black inasmuch as it represents depression. She stated that on most occasions the members wore white and purple or colors which were soft.

Mrs. BARTLETT advised that this organization had regular meetings and the membership was approximately seven or eight members. She advised that the reading room was in room #20 of the Masonic Temple and that some of the meetings were open for the public and some classes were closed.

Mrs. BARTLETT advised further that in her opinion every six months members of this organization had to attend classes for what they called "retraining" in this organization at which time they were required to learn a great number of verses and read continually.

Mrs. BARTLETT also advised that members of this organization were not suppose to ask for money and in her understanding no money was solicited at any time and in her estimation this organization consisted of members with excessive imaginations.

A list of members as obtained from MARY S. BARTLETT are as follows:

Mrs. NORMA CROONENBERGHS
Mrs. GENE BABBET
Mrs. OLE ANDERSON
Mrs. ROSE KING
Mrs. HERMAN GERBER
Mrs. BROWN
Mrs. JAMES JENSEN
Mrs. VAN ETTEN
Mrs. NEUREMBERG

Mrs. BARTLETT stated that she knew the names of these people inasmuch as she had attended a few of the meetings, however, she was not a member of the organization although she did not believe there was anything of a subversive nature connected with Subject organization.

HARRY M. RAWN, who is chairman of the building committee of the Masonic Building, advised that for the past for or five years the I AM organization had rented a room for the purpose of reading and holding their meetings. He advised that on all occasions they were very prompt in paying their rent sometimes by bills, however, for the past few times the rent was paid in small change indicating a possible collection of donations at the meetings.

Mr. RAWN advised that Mrs. OLE ANDERSON usually paid for the rent, however, during the past few months the rent was paid by another lady whose name he did not know.

Mr. RAWN added, however, that for the past four years they had given no trouble whatsoever and a portion of the time while they were in their room everything was very quite, however, at times they sang song and read in unison in a sort of monotone.

Mr. RAWN stated that there were people in the reading room of evenings quite often, however, all of them seemed to be elderly ladies; few men and young people were ever noticed attending the meeting, however, on occasions one or two men had been seen going into the reading room.

In conclusion Mr. RAWN advised that there was a nice alter fixed up in the room and everything was painted white and all writing appeared to be in purple color. He advised that he had been inside the room on a few occasions at which time there very books in the room and what they contained he did not know.

W. B. TRENERRY, elevator operator for the past year in the Masonic Building, advised that in his estimation there was not a great deal of activity on the part of Subject organization and there seven or eight members, ranging in age from thirty-five to seventy years most of whom were women. He advised that on one or two occasions during the evening meetings he had seen two men attend the meetings.

TRENERRY advised that this organization usually has its services during Sunday morning and possibly one or two nights a week. He advised that the members sing and pray and have readings which are read in a sort of monotone.

From a very reliable and confidential source of information a schedule of the group activities of the I AM organization and a donation envelope were obtained and are being retained in the files of the Butte Field Division for any further use deemed necessary. From this source it was also learned that the reading room was painted white with pictures hanging on the walls. There were twelve white chairs in the room and containing an alter and a white piano. There is only one large song book in the reading room which is approximately one foot wide and sixteen inches long and all of the songs are written with purple priting on white background. It is also reported that all of the pictures which are hanging on the walls are printed in purple on a white or creme background.

Mrs. EUNICE BROWN, Grand Secretary of the Order of Eastern Stars whose office is right next to the reading room of the I AM organization, stated that members of the organization gave no trouble whatsoever other than making considerable noise at times when she wanted to work. She advised that they sing songs and appeared to be memorizing verses which they repeat in a

monotone. She advised that she had heard nothing of a derogatory nature concerning the organization or indicting that they were connected in any way with subversive activities. She advised that once she overheard plainly that an applicant or person who was present would not salute or pledge allegiance to the flag. She stated that they were trying to decide what was to be done about it and the leader or one of the people present finally said they would do nothing.

Mrs. BROWN advised that her room had been next to the reading room for some time during the past and she was certain that if any statements had made indicating subversive activities on the part of the organization she would have heard it and would have reported the organization long ago.

The following individuals were contacted with negative results for any information regarding the I AM organization:

CLARK DAVIS, Deputy Sheriff of Missoula County
HARRY M. SMITH, Chief of Police, Missoula, Montana
ROBERT MacLEAN, Sheriff
Reverence L. M. POWELL, 2004 South 10th West.

A review of the Butte files reflects that on November 7, 1939, STEPHEN NEUREMBERG, Postmaster, called to the attention of Special Agent JOHN F. TROST an article which appeared in the October 25, 1939, issue of the "Sacramento Union." This article was in regard to the organization known as the "GREAT I AM" which is apparently a religious organization of questionable character. Mr. NEUREMBERG advised that a local chapter of this organization existed at Missoula, Montana, and held meetings in the Masonic Temple.

The files also reflect that on August 27, 1940, Patrolman JAMES HIRST, of the Billings, Montana, Police Department, advised Special Agent W. T. GRAY that information had reached him to the effect that the house situated at 3312 Fourth Avenue North in Billings was usedmysteriously as a meeting place for a group of women. Mr. HIRST stated that his informant could not advise him of the nature of the meeting.

Mr. BEN HAGERMAN, who operates a grocery store across the street from 3312 Fourth Avenue North, advised that this house was owned by Mrs. B. F. MARTIN who resided at 43 Clark Avenue, Billings, Montana. He stated that the house is used only as a meeting place and not as a dwelling. He stated that insofar as he could determine the place was used by a group of women who to the best of his knowledge are known as the "I. M. A. M." group. He advised that his store is a sub-agency for the Post Office and that he sells money orders and that Mrs. ROY PATTERSON of 133 Broadwater Avenue, Billings, Montana, is apparently the secretary of the groups and that she comes to the store and purchases money orders, apparently the money being used for the purchase of literature for the group. He advised that these

money orders were usually made out to the Saint Germain Press, Box 1133, Chicago, Illinois. Mr. HAGERMAN stated that the group caught his attention particularly because they always used the back door of the house and never made use of the front door.

Inasmuch as it is apparent that there is a group of members of Subject organization in the vicinity of Billings, Montana, a lead is being set forth to determine the membership and activities of that group.

PENDING

"I AM" Cult, a religious organization
Internal Security-C, Sedition

Oct. 12, 1943

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE BUTTE FIELD DIVISION

AT BILLINGS, MONTANA

Will contact sources of information and informants in that district to determine the extent of the activities or the organization which is a religious cult known as I AM.

Best Available Copy

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT [illegible] [illegible] FILE NO. [illegible]

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [illegible], Indiana | 1/12/43 | [illegible]/43 | [illegible] |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
| --- | --- |
| [illegible], a [illegible] organization | [illegible] |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Investigation discloses [illegible] membership of this organization in [illegible], Indiana, is approximately seven, [illegible] VIRGIL [illegible]. Meeting place of the organization is [illegible] of the [illegible]. [illegible] advises that there is nothing of a subversive nature regarding the organization & their meetings. [illegible] held two or three times a week at which time those in attendance play cards and [illegible]. [illegible] advises organization [illegible] on the idea that if [illegible] will be [illegible]. Investigation continuing at [illegible], Indiana.

ALL [illegible]
HE[illegible] [illegible]NED
DATE 12/14/82 [illegible] SP8BD [illegible]

Reference: Bureau letter to [illegible], June [illegible], 1942.

Details: [illegible]

[illegible], clerk of the Local [illegible] Board, advised that [illegible] any information in the [illegible] which were

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 100-1407

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| DENVER, COLORADO | 10-18-1943 | 9-10,21,25,30, 1943. | DONALD W. GERE VS |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT - A Religious Organization | SECURITY MATTER (C); SEDITION. |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject organization formerly active at Gunnison, Colo., Montrose and Lake City, Colo. Presently active at Ouray, Colo. where meetings being held regularly. Determined that Cult has leased Ironton Ski Lodge for secret meeting place and that MILTON EDGAR is leader in vicinity of Ouray. Numerous individuals report members of Cult well-to-do and spend lavishly. No indication that organization concerned with subversive acts or disseminating propaganda. Members reportedly persist in making excessive demands on ration boards for supplemental gasoline and tires. Further reported that male members have requested draft deferment on basis of working in mines at Ouray, Colo. Series of lectures held, Phipps Auditorium, Denver, Colo., 9-4-43 to 9-26-43 under leadership of FRANCES EATON of Philadelphia, Pa.; principle speaker Mrs. GUY BALLARD. Conference attended by approximately 600 people from various parts of Colo.; included several New Mexico people. Lectures consisted of religious material. Material obtained from group leader set out.

- P -

REFERENCES: Report of Special Agent DONALD W. GERE, Denver, Colo., dated 7-28-43.

Report of Special Agent HARRY W. McMILLEN, Denver, Colo., 9-1-43.

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DVR 100-1407

DETAILS:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent CHARLES J. MAUIE:

AT GUNNISON, COLORADO:

Mr. G. LOUIS MILLER, former President of the Rotary Club, advised that an individual by the name of MILTON EDGAR was the leader of the "I Am" Cult that came from California approximately two years ago. MILLER stated at that time there were some forty to fifty members of the Cult that came to town and stayed at the Allen Hotel and other places in Gunnison. He advised that most all of them dressed in plain blue and appeared well-to-do and spent their cash lavishly in town. He stated that their cars had California license plates and that all of the members appeared to have plenty of money.

MILLER further advised that ROY SHEEK, Manager of the J. C. Penny Company, told him that he made a big bonus during the year 1942 as the result of the members of the Cult spending so much money with his company. Mr. MILLER, who is in the furniture business, stated that Mrs. EDGAR bought the best furniture he had and furnished a large home in Gunnison owned by CHARLES ALLBRIGHT. MILLER stated that it was his opinion that the Cult was holding their meetings in this house but that he had heard no specific information to bear this out. He stated that the members of the Cult caused no trouble and were not objectionable. He stated that most people were suspicious of them at Gunnison but without cause. He advised that they had no apparent means of income yet all of them spend lavishly. MILLER stated that Doctor WILLIAM H. MAST of Gunnison, Colorado had treated one unmarried member of the Cult who was a dentist from California. According to MILLER, Doctor MAST had told him that the dentist had said he joined the Cult for the purpose of avoiding the draft and that though he had a good dental practice in California he desired to come out in the vicinity of Gunnison, Colorado in order to work in the mines and obtain a draft deferment.

MILLER further informed that the members of the Cult had all left Gunnison and had gone to Lake City, Colorado where they ostensibly were interested in mining and had bought up some of the old mines there which were closed down. MILLER stated that Mrs. BALLARD and her son were in Gunnison for awhile but that they had left there, going to Lake City where the whole organization was reported to be going into the mining business. It was his opinion that they had entered this industry because it was adeferable one. MILLER advised that no one in the city of Gunnison had stated to him that the members of the Cult were unpatriotic or disloyal to this country. He stated, however, that he had received information from A. W. HOGAN of the Express Company in Gunnison that truck loads of literature had come in there by express and that it had been directed to the organization at Lake City. It was MILLER's opinion that all of the

literature was used for their own organization since none of it had been disseminated at Gunnison, Colorado.

HARRY C. GRUBB, Undersheriff at Gunnison, Colorado, stated that he recalled that the "I Am" Cult came to Gunnison about two years ago. He advised that there was nothing in their behavior at that time to indicate that they were concerned with un-American activities. He advised that people in general were suspicious of them, although no one seemed to have fault with them. He stated most people regarded them as "queer" inasmuch as they were always very pleasant and seemed to have no bad habits whatever such as drinking and smoking. He advised further that they were conservative in their conversation and manner but spent lavishly at all of the firms in town. He stated that they would go into a place and instead of buying one suit they would buy three or four and that money appeared to be no problem to them.

According to GRUBB, there was no derogatory information to be had concerning the Cult at Gunnison, Colorado.

AT MONTROSE, COLORADO:

Sheriff FRANK L. HOVEY advised that the "I Am" Cult was known to most everyone in the city but that they had never held meetings or been active there. HOVEY recalled specifically that a woman, one Mrs. LOUIS CISCO, age 67, Ute, Colorado, had joined the Cult. He stated that prior to the time the organization came into the vicinity of Montrose, this individual had not been very religious but had merely resided on a ranch near Ute, Colorado. He stated that she had died about a year ago. At that time he recalled there was some litigation in the courts over the estate which she had left, since part of it was designated for the "I Am" Cult. Sheriff HOVEY advised that he had gone up to her ranch house at the time Mrs. CISCO died and he had learned later that members of the "I Am" Cult had insisted that her body be frozen and sent to Denver to be cremated. HOVEY advised that some of the local people were under the impression that the Cult was trying to obtain members mostly of whom were well-to-do old women. He could furnish no specific information to support this report.

Sheriff HOVEY further advised that there were anonymous reports going around town to the effect that the Cult was supposed to be an organization against the Government with intent to overthrow the Government, but he had been unable to find any basis for these rumors. Sheriff HOVEY advised that he understood the members of the Cult were building a road from Red Mountain over to Lake City, Colorado, a distance of some ten miles, that would enable the members to go to and from Lake City to their lodge on top of Red Mountain which they have leased for a meeting place.

DVR 100-1407

Mr. CHARLES E. ADAMS, JR., editor of the Montrose Daily Press, advised that numerous rumors had been going around the city regarding the Cult, one being that the members did not believe in living with their own wives but thought it was all right to run around with each other's wives. He stated that another rumor was that the malemembers of the Cult were trying to obtain draft deferments because of being employed in the mines at Ouray and Lake City, Colorado. ADAMS stated that after members were actually so employed there would be little basis for claiming draft deferment because these old mines were no longer active and had little or no value. Mr. ADAMS advised that most of the members were now beginning to locate at Ouray, Colorado and he understood they were having meetings there about every night. He stated that most of the members, particularly MILTON EDGAR, the leader, had a tremendous amount of wealth and yet no visible source of income. It was ADAMS' opinion that they were trying to contact wealthy people and sell them on the belief of their Cult and get them into the organization in order to secure additional funds. He advised that this was merely hearsay information and could furnish no specific basis for the rumors.

ADAMS also advised that he never heard of any of the members having made un-American or disloyal utterances. He advised, however, that most everyone was aware of the fact that they had made requests from the ration boards for supplemental gasoline and tires so that they could drive their big cars around.

Mr. CLYDE M. GARFIELD of the Bolen Motors Company was out of town, but his secretary, Miss BETTY OKEY, was interviewed at which time she stated that she was aware of the Cult's activities at Montrose and also at Ouray, Colorado. She stated that all of the members appeared well mannered and it was stated that there was no derogatory information to be had concerning them. She stated there was nothing in their speech or manner to indicate that they were concerned with subversive activities. She stated they were regarded as suspicious individuals, however, because they appeared to be well-to-do and spend their money lavishly without any visible source of income. She stated that she understood Mrs. BALLARD had leased the Ironton Ski Lodge at Red Mountain, Colorado and she believed that was to be the center of their activities. She advised that Mr. GARFIELD had told her that the Cult had a great deal of literature published and received it for their members, but that they were not spreading any of the pamphlets or books in the vicinity. She advised that, rather in contrast, they were more or less secretive in their activities and preferred to not have people "nosing around in their religious work". She stated that she had never heard of any of the members trying to recruit followers from the city of Montrose or Ouray, Colorado and she did not believe that they were making any effort to increase their membership.

Miss OKEY further stated that she knew no members of the Cult except those who had originally come to Montrose and that vicinity from California.

California. She stated that it was her understanding they were holding meetings every night at a hall next to the Beaumont Hotel at Ouray, Colorado.

AT OURAY, COLORADO:

Mr. BEVERLY SPENCER, editor of the local newspaper at Ouray, Colorado, stated that MILTON EDGAR was the leader of the "I Am" Cult which had evidently taken up its permanent location in that city. He stated also that an individual by the name of E. STICKELL, former attorney from Chicago, was the Traveling Agent for the Cult. According to SPENCER, the Cult carries on a school of instruction, mostly for women of their own organization, and meetings are held almost every night in a room adjacent to the Beaumont Hotel in Ouray. He stated that he believed Mrs. BALLARD, the leader of the Cult, had leased the Ironton Ski Lodge on Red Mountain above Ouray, Colorado as a secret meeting place of the organization. SPENCER stated that the Cult considers this lodge strictly private and they have numerous signs posted indicating that no trespassing on the property is allowed.

SPENCER stated that from information he had obtained in town it was his impression that the Cult disapproved of war or in the helping out with the war effort in any way. Without being specific, SPENCER stated that it was the general impression in town that none of the members were buying War Bonds. SPENCER stated that he heard that the ration board was having trouble over supplementary gas and tires which the members of the Cult had evidently requested. He also stated that some of the male members had evidently obtained deferment from the draft on the basis of being employed in the mines around Ouray.

Mrs. EVELYN SCALA, Clerk of Local Board #68, stated that she was formerly employed in the local ration board at Ouray and at that time she remembered MILTON EDGAR and his sister, JEAN, both leaders in the "I Am" Cult, had made request for supplemental gas and tires. Without being specific, Mrs. SCALA advised that all of the members had fine, big cars and appeared to have B and C ration coupons. In spite of this, they were always wanting more gasoline to make trips to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mrs. SCALA further recalled that some months ago she had been employed as an operator for the telephone company at Ouray, Colorado, and at that time Mrs. BALLARD had made a long distance call to a man at Santa Fe, New Mexico. She stated their conversation was about literature which he was printing for her and the "I Am" Cult. She stated that the man had told Mrs. BALLARD that he was slowed up considerably on printing the literature, and he stated in effect that "things got hot" and he moved his printing equipment out of the old garage. Mrs. SCALA advised that most

of the members of the Cult in Ouray appeared friendly and there was no cause to be suspicious of them. She stated they held their meetings regularly every night at an old hall in Ouray, and though none of the local town people came to the meetings or were invited, everyone was aware of the fact that they had group singing and group playing there. She stated that there is no indication whatever that they were concerned with un-American activities, but at the same time it was the general impression that the "I Am" Cult was against war and did not desire to do anything to further the war effort of this country.

Mrs. MARJORIE ISRAEL, Clerk of ration board #86, Ouray, Colorado, stated that PAUL H. STICKELL, Ironton Lodge, Post Office Box 349, Ouray, Colorado, had called at the ration board and stated that his home address was 1620 East 84th Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. He stated to the board that he was a Traveling Preacher for the "I Am" Cult and that he drove approximately three thousand miles monthly in conducting his religious duties. He made application on July 16, 1943 for supplemental gas rationing, but the application was refused.

Mrs. ISRAEL remembered specifically that Miss JEAN EDGAR had made application and had received supplemental gasoline for the Ironton Lodge Power Plant. She stated this individual specifically told her that the members of the Cult would not buy Bonds or assist in the war effort. Mrs. ISRAEL, however, stated that practically every member wears an American flag button in their lapel. She stated that several of the members mentioned to her that they were opposed to war.

Concerning their dress, she stated that none of the members would wear red or black inasmuch as they believed these two colors to be evil colors, however, they all believed in wearing pastel shades, and it was not unusual to see them dressed in bright blues, and further, some of their cars were painted bright yellow colors.

According to Mrs. ISRAEL, several of the "I Am" Cult members had stated to her they were going to make Ouray their headquarters "if they were treated all right". She stated that there was nothing suspicious about their activities at Ouray and that their meetings were held apparently for the purpose of playing, reading and talking in unison. She advised that all of the members stay to themselves and do not enter into any local activities.

Sheriff JESS WOOD advised that he had been keeping a close check on the "I Am" Cult and its members. He stated that one member, FRED BENSON, age 20, seemed to be getting other young fellows to come into Ouray to work in the mines and upon the basis of this these individuals were requesting

draft deferments from their Local Boards. He stated he had questioned some of the young men and all of them had II-B deferments. JESS WOOD also recalled that another member, THOMAS CHASE, had told a local miner at Ouray, that he would not take any "trail work" because this type of employment would not enable him to receive a draft deferment.

Sheriff WOOD also mentioned an incident which had happened about the first of Septembdr to the effect that a sheep herder in the vicinity of Ironton Lodge had been approached by a man who was a member of the Cult and a self-designated watchman, and this individual, at the point of a gun, had forced the sheep herder off the property and accused him of trespassing on the Ironton Lodge grounds.

Sheriff WOOD stated that there was nothing in the activities of the members at Ouray which could be considered subversive or unpatriotic except for the fact that they had refused to enter into the local Bond Drive.

The following investigation was conducted by the writer:

AT DENVER, COLORADO:

The series of lectures held in the Phipps Auditorium from September 4 to September 26, 1943, as originally reported in reference report, was conducted under the leadership of Mrs. FRANCES EATON from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, together with Mrs. MINNIE PATTEE of Denver, Colorado. The principle speaker at the lectures was Mrs. GUY BALLARD, wife of the founder of the "I Am" Cult. Approximately six hundred people attended this series of lectures daily. It was noted that numerous cars from various counties in Colorado, several cars bearing California license plates, and also ones bearing New Mexico license plates, were present. As of possible interest to the Office of Origin, the following license numbers of the New Mexico cars are being set out: 29; 31; 1382; 2475 and 3837.

All lectures of the series dealt mainly with the "Consuming White Flame that Envelopes all Discord". It was noted that numerous servicemen attended the meetings and all were dressed in white clothes; the men all wearing lapel buttons consisting of one or two miniature American flags. It was a closed meeting and only those holding invitations were admitted. The audience included several colored people.

It was ascertained that the "I Am" group has made arrangements to hold a similar conference at Wild Basin Lodge for a period of several days beginning September 27, 1943. This lodge is near Allenspark, Colorado and will accommodate approximately three hundred people.

draft deferments from their local boards. He stated he had questioned some of the young men and all of them had II-B deferments. JESS WOOD also recalled that another member, THOMAS CHASE, had told a local rancher at Carey, that he would not take any "trail work" because this type of employment would not enable him to receive a draft deferment.

Sheriff WOOD also mentioned an incident which had happened about the first of September to the effect that a sheep herder in the vicinity of Trenton Lodge had been approached by a man who was a member of the Cult and a self-designated watchman, and this individual, at the point of a gun, had forced the sheep herder off the property and accused him of trespassing on the Trenton Lodge grounds.

Sheriff WOOD stated that there was nothing in the activities of the members at Carey which could be considered subversive or unpatriotic except for the fact that they had refused to enter into the local Bond Drive.

The following investigation was conducted by the writer:

AT DENVER, COLORADO:

The series of lectures held in the Phipps Auditorium from September 4 to September 26, 1943, as originally reported in reference report, was conducted under the leadership of Mrs. FRANCES S. [illegible] from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, together with Mrs. MINNIE MATTES of Denver, Colorado. The principle speaker at the lectures was Mrs. GUY BALLARD, wife of the founder of the "I Am" Cult. Approximately six hundred people attended this series of lectures daily. It was noted that numerous cars from various counties in Colorado, several cars bearing California license plates, and also ones bearing New Mexico license plates, were present. As of possible interest to the Office of Origin, the following license numbers of the New Mexico cars are being set out: 29; 51; 1582; 2472 and 3637.

All lectures of the series dealt mainly with the "Consuming White Flame that Envelopes all Discord". It was noted that numerous servicemen attended the meetings and all were dressed in white clothes; the men all wearing lapel buttons consisting of one or two miniature American flags. It was a closed meeting and only those holding invitations were admitted. The audience included several colored people.

It was ascertained that the "I Am" group had made arrangements to hold a similar conference at Wild Basin Lodge for a period of several days beginning September 27, 1943. This lodge is near Allenspark, Colorado and will accommodate approximately three hundred people.



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DVR 100-1407

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent ROBERT D. DELLWO. The information set forth was obtained from Mr. B. D. CHENOWITH who advised that he was a group leader of the "I Am" Cult from Jackson, Florida. Mr. CHENOWITH made the following statements concerning the policies of faith as held by members of the "I Am" Cult:

The rationale of the sect is somewhat as follows: It will be remembered that at the time the Holy Ghost appeared to Moses on Mt. Sanai and, as recorded in other places in the bible especially in the Gospel of St. John, the statement was made by the Supreme being, "I Am," meaning I am the amplitude of being and "I am The Light", meaning that from me the light of all truth, knowledge, good, etc. flows. From this and from the inspiration of their own leaders the doctrines of the "I Am" movement were formulated. In effect they postulate that the "godhead", existing somewhere in the outer reaches of the universe and that he emits vibrations or "cosmic light" which has the brilliancy of a "thousand suns" and which permeates all being and is the principle of all existence. If this light is removed from a being it passes immediately out of existence.

In the process of creation of man "in the image and likeness of God" there is condensed from this cosmic light miniature fountains of light which are the spiritual being of various men, women, etc. This light is focused on our Pineal gland and is manifasted in a silver nerve which runs to our hearts. But this "fountain of light" is really us and exists over us and around us and is capable of "lighting the world", cleansing it of evil and discord with its "living flame" and radiate energy to all creation in the same manner that the god head of light does but in a lesser quantity. In proportion that we are evil or bound to the material things of this world we are pure matter and our "light of life" dims or even trends to go out. Only by throwing off our bodily desires, cleansing our minds, and becoming gloriously aware of the existence of our real being "this light or this I AM" can we perfect ourselves and finally ascend into the perfect universe called heaven. Also, only by doing this, does our cosmic energy become strong enough to aid in the purification of the whole world. Once this light springs to its full effulgence in a great number of people it may, by mental concentration and physical activity, be sent all over the world, furnishing light to it and burning away imperfection. However, until we personally attain that perfection, we keep being reproduced in material form through the years or even centuries until we do.

Christ was the first "ascendent being" who developed the "light of his life" to such brilliancy that not only was he purified so that he could ascend into heaven but so that he could actually wield a purifying influence over the whole world. FRANCES BACON, the real founder of the "I Am", and the real author of Shakespearian plays, was reincarnated at the time of

Napoleon in the body of St. Germain. He is the real founder but the thousands of others who have become ascendent beings exist on the higher plane ready to help us as soon as we have purified ourselves enough for us to be helped.

The golden age is about to come to the world. The United States is the focal point of its coming introduction. Consequently, the chief political activity of the "I Am" is subordinated to the one aim of making the United States as perfect as possible. To that end they were first isolationists and wanted to keep the United States out of war so as to preserve its present perfection for further perfection. When we were forced to enter the world its chief aim was to keep the war out of the United States. To this end they not only sought to make the United States economically strong enough to keep the enemy at a distance but, by their meetings where they as a group collected all their flames of life together into one living flame and added to it the flames of some of the ascendent beings, they sent their vibrations through all the world which tend to perfect the United States, then the whole western hemisphere and finally even send "tongues of living flame" to clean imperfection, discord, etc. etc., out of the other hemisphere. Presently the other hemisphere is so evil that the flames or spiritual beings of the people are so dim as to be snowed under and foundered in the preponderance of evil.

Mr. CHENOWITH claimed that the "I Am" movement consists of about 5,000,000 people in the United States and received its first real impetus in 1932 and progressed from that date with the miraculousness born of truth and of having the real light. It is still a United States activity and has very little representation, if any, in foreign countries. It is presently dominated by Mr. and Mrs. BALLARD who make their living from the "love gifts" of the congregations and from the circulation of its magazines and books. Mrs. MINNIE PATTEE is the leader in Denver and has at least 1,000 followers who are active and others who are comparatively inactive.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent DONALD W. GERE:

Undersheriff THOMAS MAINLAND, Denver County, Colorado, advised that in November of 1942 a Mr. O. T. GIFFEN started up the Consumer's Service, Incorporated, designating himself as President and consisting of the following officers: L. L. WILDER, Secretary and Treasurer; Doctor W. M. SHEATS; F. S. SNYDER; LEWIS CHATHAM; T. A. WRAY, as Directors. He advised that this company purchased numerous expensive articles from the Kistler's Stationary Company of Denver with which they completely outfitted their suite of offices. He advised that he later learned this Consumer's Service, Incorporated was made up entirely of members of the "I Am" group; that no money was ever paid on the office furniture, and that as the result, on November 30, 1942 the office furniture was returned to the Kistler Company for non-payment. Mr. MAINLAND stated that as far as he knew this company was no longer in existence.

- P E N D I N G -

- UNDEVELOPED LEADS -

THE DENVER FIELD DIVISION:

*AT CHEYENNE, WYOMING:

*Will contact sources of information to determine the extent of activities of this Cult in that area.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS

FILE NO. 100-1437

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| DENVER, COLORADO | 10-10-1943 | 9-19,22,25,30, 1943. | DONALD W. [redacted] |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| BI AH' CULT - A Religious Organization | SECURITY MATTER (C); SEDITION. |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject organization formerly active at Gunnison, Colo., Montrose and Lake City, Colo. Presently active at Ouray, Colo. where meetings being held regularly. Determined that Cult has leased Ironton Old Lodge for secret meeting place and that HALTON EDGAR is leader in vicinity of Ouray. Numerous individuals report members of Cult well-to-do and spend lavishly. No indication that organization concerned with subversive acts or disseminating propaganda. Members reportedly persist in making excessive demands on ration boards for supplemental gasoline and tires. Further reported that male members have requested draft deferment on basis of working in mines at Ouray, Colo. Series of lectures held, Phipps Auditorium, Denver, Colo., 9-4-43 to 9-26-43 under leadership of FRANCES EATON of Philadelphia, Pa.; principle speaker Mrs. GUY BALLARD. Conference attended by approximately 600 people from various parts of Colo.; included several New Mexico people. Lectures consisted of religious material. Material obtained from group leader set out.

- P -

REFERENCES: Report of Special Agent DONALD W. [redacted], Denver, Colo., dated 7-20-43.

Report of Special Agent MARY V. [redacted], Denver, Colo., 9-1-43.

| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS

FILE NO. 100-2498

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| PHOENIX, ARIZONA | 11-11-43 | 8-24,25,27;9-22,27-43 | JOHN FRANCIS HIGGINS IRA |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Cult branch at Tucson, Arizona composed of some ten members and maintains reading room there but is not active. No evidence or indication that Organization is engaging in un-American activities within the State of Arizona where its numerical strength is negligible. Result of 30 day mail cover placed 8-16-43 negative.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent JOHN FRANCIS HIGGINS, Phoenix, Arizona, dated 8-9-43.

DETAILS:

AT TUCSON, ARIZONA:

12/14/82 - SPC BTB/mg

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent ROY C. DAHL.

A search of the telephone directory reflected that a telephone was listed for the "I AM" organization reading room located at 1216 East Sixth Street, Tucson. In checking the city directory it was ascertained that this address is the residence of INGA O. BELL, the operator of a physical therapy and massage parlor at the address. Records maintained by the Tucson Credit Association reveal that Mrs. BELL is forty years of age, a widow who derives her income from her business and from her realty.

Captain ROY ROBINSON and Sergeant YEAZELL of the Tucson Police Department, both of whom reside in the vicinity of 1216 East Sixth Street, stated that they had no knowledge concerning the activities of the Cult at that address. They had no information that the Cult was engaging in practices inimical to the best interests of this country; furthermore, they supposed that the membership was very small or their attention might otherwise have been attracted to the Organization.

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| H. R. Dwyer | | 62-56722-107 |

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PX 100-2498

Mrs. INGA O. BELL was interviewed by Agent DAHL under pretext at her home. She informed him that the Cult did not counsel conscientious objection to military service and pointed out that the son of Mrs. EDWARD BALLARD was now in military service. She named the son of Mrs. CONNIE DICK, a member of the Tucson Branch, as another who was presently serving in the armed forces. Mrs. BELL extolled the virtues of the Organization, reiterating in substance the views of other members as set out in referenced report. She reviewed the program of instruction adhered to at Tucson, which is substantially the same as that followed in Phoenix and reported upon heretofore. Mrs. BELL stated that she is the leader of the Cult which is composed of some ten other members; they make up the Tucson membership. She added that the membership from time to time has been more substantial in numbers but explained that persons have joined the Group, found the tenets of "I AM" Cult to be incompatible with their religious convictions and have thereafter left the Activity.

AT PHOENIX, ARIZONA:

A. L. GAGNIER, again contacted under pretext, again made claim to leadership of the Cult in the City of Phoenix. He insisted that if there was anything expounded by the Cult which was inconsistent with the welfare of this country he would not continue to interest himself in it. While reiterating remarks contained in referenced report relative to conflict between Cult and State, he urged that such differences were not basic; he conceded that the Organization was opposed to certain attitudes of the Roosevelt Administration, not opposed to the ends sought to be accomplished but to the means employed to accomplish those ends. He again informed that the strength of the Cult was located in Phoenix and in Tucson, that there are no units of the Group elsewhere in the State of Arizona.

LANE SICKLES, Assistant Postal Superintendent, advised that the cover placed August 16, 1943 by this office on mail destined to this Organization was productive of negative results.

With the prosecution of investigation of instant case completed and duly reported, it is being referred upon completion to the office of origin on the authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT [redacted] FILE NO. 100-2473

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| [redacted], A.I. CHA | 11-11-43 | 2-24,25,27,3-2,27-43 | [redacted] LA |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a Policious Organization | [redacted] ATY - C CENTRAL |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Cult branch at Tucson, Arizona composed of some ten members and maintains reading room there but is not active. No evidence or indication that organization is engaging in un-American activities within the State of Arizona where its numerical strength is negligible. Result of 30 day mail cover placed 2-10-43 negative.

- 110 -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted], Phoenix, Arizona, dated 2-7-43.

DETAILS:

AT TUCSON, ARIZONA:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted].

A search of the telephone directory reflected that a telephone was listed for the "I AM" organization reading room located at 1216 East Sixth Street, Tucson. In checking the city directory it was ascertained that this address is the residence of [redacted], the operator of a physical therapy and massage parlor at the address. Records maintained by the Tucson Credit Association reveal that Mrs. [redacted] is forty years of age, a widow who derives her income from her business and from her realty.

Captain [redacted] and Sergeant [redacted] of the Tucson Police Department, both of whom reside in the vicinity of 1216 East Sixth Street, stated that they had no knowledge concerning the activities of the Cult at that address. They had no information that the Cult was engaging in practices inimical to the best interests of this country; furthermore, they supposed that the membership was very small or their attention might otherwise have been attracted to the organization.

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# FEDE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, AS FILE NO. 65-617

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA | 11- 43 | 8-27;9-7,28; 10-19-43 | EUGENE P. CLARK EPC:eob |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious c nization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION 68336 |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: No meetings of subject organization have been held at Laguna Beach in recent months, nor have any meetings been contemplated. Membership there very spars and shows no activities at present. Informant states the cult now active in San Diego.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/14/12 BY

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REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943. 225,140
Report of Special Agent EDWARD P. FERRIS, El Paso, Texas, dated July 16, 1943.
Report of Special Agent RALPH V. REED, San Diego, California, dated August 4, 1943.

DATE 5/21/58

DETAILS: Informant A stated, "While our men are winning the war abroad, we are losing it at home, as is evidenced by the reversal of the decision of the Appelate Court in the 'I Am' case, the Government versus EDNA BALLARD and others". Further, that nation after nation has fallen through well educated talented people in high positions, having been taken over mentally and emotionally by organizations such as the "I Am". Informant further stated that the first step of Nazism and Fascism has always been mental aggression, followed by emotional aggression and then aggression upon the country. Informant pointed that Mrs. BALLARD had stated before her trial that she would be freed if convicted and pointed out how she would be freed, and it had turned out just that way. Her followers believed that it was the mighty "I Am" presence that did it, and that now there are three million people ready to do her bidding when she is ready to strike, which will be immediately after the next trial if she is freed.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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62-56721-108

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Informant stated that she was continuing to make contacts and secure information as to who the leaders were, and what was going on. Informant stated that through factual findings it has been ascertained that the same leaders are in operation today as when the BALLARDS were openly active.

Informant stated that Mr. and Mrs. ENSOR, he a former Christian Science Reader and she a teacher of Artin the public schools, are the heads of the order today, as they were when Mrs. BALLARD was permitted to operate openly, and that they have just returned to San Diego after spending two years in Colorado with Mrs. BALLARD. Informant further stated that Mr. and Mrs. ENSOR were slated to go to Laguna Beach for a Conclave in the near future.

Informant also advised that HAZEL DAVIS and JESSIE WEISEMAN, telephone operators in the San Diego Gas and Light Company, are very active and have always aspired to be leaders, particularly JESSIE WEISEMAN, as she gave up all she had and followed Mrs. BALLARD to Colorado, but is now back in her old position in the San Diego Gas and Light Company. Informant's information came from one of the sub-station operators, and informant states that these two women know where every part of the Gas Company's equipment is located and have contacts with the leading men and women in the entire organization, pointing out that when these "WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY" trained operators strike, they strike where it will be most apt to cripple a nation, indicating that utilities are vulnerable points for such action.

AT LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent GERARD A. POTE:

Chief PAUL JOHNSON, Laguna Police Department, advised that the "I Am" Sanctuary in Laguna Beach was located at 812 South Coast Boulevard. He advised that his Department has always kept the activities of this organization under observation, since the arrest of the leaders in Los Angeles. This source stated, that in the past year he has never seen anyone enter or leave the sanctuary, with the exception of Mrs. BERTHA McELWAIN, the local leader. He continued that inasmuch as he hadn't observed or heard of any group frequenting the sanctuary, or of any large meetings being held, he had concluded it was being kept open through the financial support and personal persistency of Mrs. McELWAIN. Chief JOHNSON added that his Department had never received any complaint which would indicate it was dangerous to the internal security of this country and that he himself has always considered it "just a religious racket".

(2) – 56722 – 108

Mrs. FRANK STOW, Temple Hills Real Estate Company, 888 South Coast Boulevard, advised she is personally acquainted with Mrs. BERTHA EDNA McELWAIN, who has been, for the past seven or eight years, the local leader of the "I Am" sect in Laguna Beach. This informant advised that when this movement first originated, Mrs. McELWAIN held the meetings in her home at 700 Thalia Street, Laguna Beach, then about five or six years ago rented the store which is presently called the "I Am Sanctuary". Mrs. STOW advised to her personal knowledge, Mrs. McELWAIN pays all the expenses of the organization and also the rent on the building which is twenty-five dollars per month. This informant pointed out that she resided at 252 Uturpie Street, which is located across the street from the sanctuary and as a result due to the location of her business and residence is in a position to continually observe the activities at the Sanctuary. She stated that in the past year she has never observed more than one or two people about the sanctuary, and to her knowledge there has never been a meeting which had more than five people in it. Mrs. STOW suggested that this Agent contact Mrs. RUTH HOLMES, who resides about the "I Am" sanctuary for further information. She advised that Mrs. HOLMES could identify the other woman she has seen about the sanctuary on occasions.

Mrs. RUTH HOLMES, 812½ South Coast Boulevard, upon being contacted gave substantially the same information as Mrs. STOW. She added that Miss ETHEL NEALEY, who resides in back of the "I Am" sanctuary, was the only other member of this sect besides Mrs. McELWAIN, that she knew. This informant advised that although she has resided above the sanctuary for the past seven months she has never heard or observed a meeting being conducted in the sanctuary. Mrs. HOLMES stated that a Mrs. ONA SORTWEEL had formerly resided with her and had gone into the sanctuary expecting to attend a meeting as she had heard voices, evidently raised in prayer, but after entering found that it all originated in a phonograph machine. This source was requested by the reporting Agent to attempt to ascertain from Mrs. McELWAIN, or Miss NEALEY, whether they expected to hold a meeting in the near future, the extent of the sects membership, and any other information of possible value.

Mrs. ONA SORTWEEL, 444 Upper Third Street, upon being contacted reiterated the facts surrounding her visit to the "I Am" sanctuary, as obtained from Mrs. HOLMES. She stated that Mrs. McELWAIN was present in the sanctuary at the time, along with Miss NEALEY, and that they had explained to her that the phonograph records she was listening to were prayers and speeches made by Saint BALLARD, who had died about two years ago. Mrs. SORTWEEL stated that another woman was also in the sanctuary at the time, but did not believe she was a member as she acted like a visitor and Mrs. McELWAIN also explained to her the nature of the services. In this line, this informant stated the evident basis of the "I Am" sect was the teaching that each person had within him, or herself, the eternal being, called by the sect the "I Am". Mrs. SORTWEEL stated that for years she

has been curious to find out just what this sect stood for, however, when she attempted to have Mrs. McELWAIN explain what it was, Mrs. McELWAIN stated that it would first be necessary for her to read the life and teachings of Saint GERMAINE, the founder of the "I Am", before she could commence to instruct her in the full teachings of the sect. When questioned, this informant stated she had lived with Mrs. HOLMES, above the sanctuary, for a period of four months and during that time had never observed any meetings being held.

Mrs. RUTH HOLMES was recontacted at a later date, and advised that she had observed no meetings being held in the sanctuary. She stated Mrs. McELWAIN had advised her she was leaving for Denver to take further study in the teachings of the "I Am" sect and had stated she expected to be gone for some time, possibly over a month. Mrs. HOLMES also advised she had spoken to Miss NEALEY and had questioned her concerning the membership of the cult. Miss NEALEY had merely stated that the membership in Laguna Beach was very poor and had not indicated how many members they actually had.

No further investigation was conducted in Laguna Beach as the information to date indicates that this organization as far as activity is concerned is practically defunct. Further, there is no evidence that any meetings have been held or are intended to be held in Laguna Beach.

- P E N D I N G -

CONFIDENTIAL

Informant A: [redacted] b7D

This individual is being carried as a confidential informant in view of the nature of the information given and the fact that copies of this report are being designated for outside Agencies.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 65-617

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA | 11-12-43 | 8-27;9-7,28; 10-19-43 | EUGENE P. CLARK EPC:eob |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: No meetings of subject organization have been held at Laguna Beach in recent months, nor have any meetings been contemplated. Membership there very sparse and shows no activities at present. Informant states the cult now active in San Diego.

- F -

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943.
Report of Special Agent EDWARD P. FERRIS, El Paso, Texas, dated July 16, 1943.
Report of Special Agent RALPH V. REED, San Diego, California, dated August 4, 1943.

DETAILS: Informant A stated; "While our men are winning the war abroad, we are losing it at home, as is evidenced by the reversal of the decision of the Appelate Court in the 'I Am' case, the Government versus EDNA BALLARD and others." Further, that nation after nation has fallen through well educated, talented people in high positions, having been taken over mentally and emotionally by organizations such as the "I Am". Informant further stated that the first step of Nazism and Fascism has always been mental aggression, followed by emotional aggression and then aggression upon the country. Informant pointed that Mrs. BALLARD had stated before her trial that she would be freed if convicted and pointed out how she would be freed, and it had turned out just that way. Her followers believed that it was the mighty "I Am" presence that did it, and that now there are three million people ready to do her bidding when she is ready to strike, which will be immediately after the next trial if she is freed.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO 100-94

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Seattle, Washington | 11/15/43 | 6/7,29,30 7/2, 6,7,12,14,21,26 8/3-5,7,8,10 10/11,18,29, 30/43 | FRANCIS E. BRIGHT LBC |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, A Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Investigation at Seattle reflects that certain decrees against the Selective Service Act have been issued and repeated by the I AM group as recently as November 1942. The son of the group leader at Seattle is presently a draft delinquent and was recently arrested at Seattle and two other members of the organization at Seattle have been reported as draft delinquents. Membership list at Seattle obtained and set forth.

68357

-RUC-

REFERENCE: Letter from Bureau dated June 15, 1943. Report of SA JOHN J. BRACKEN dated May 20, 1943 at Chicago, Illinois.

DETAILS: Mrs. DOTTIE D. FOWLER, 1808 24th Avenue North, telephone East 0042, advised that she first heard of the BALLARD family in the spring of 1935 at which time the BALLARDS were conducting a series of lectures at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium in Seattle. She had previously been interested in theosophy and the Unity movement and was impressed by Mr. BALLARD's claim that he had been reincarnated to save the rest of the World by teaching them the doctorines of St. Germain and the instructions of the "I AM". Thereafter she attended several meetings conducted by the BALLARDS in Seattle and was contacted by a Mrs. JENSEN who came from Los Angeles to organize groups of the I AM cult at Seattle, Washington. Mrs. JENSEN suggested that Mrs. FOWLER be a leader of the group in Seattle and with some reluctance Mrs. FOWLER agreed to do so.

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| H B Fletcher | | 62-56722-109 |

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Thereafter she was furnished with several books of instructions on how to conduct meetings of the I AM cult. She had in her possession the I AM group leader's instruction book No. 3 which is copyrighted by the St. Germain Press, Inc, 1940 and was published by that press at P. O. Box 1133, Chicago, Illinois with a branch office at P.O. Box 428 Los Angeles, California. This book was written by Mrs. G. W. BALLARD and DONALD BALLARD and gives 18 pages of instructions on how to conduct meetings and the purposes and aims of the I AM cult. On page 4 of this book it states that the purpose of the study groups organized by the I AM is to enable the people of America to understand the instruction of the "ascended masters" and through their own calls to the "mighty I AM presence" secure assistance to protect America against war and destruction. The book states that group leaders should not ask for money or assistance, but that if money is needed for group activities, a meeting should be had at which all request the "I AM presence" to send money and thereafter if the members themselves wish to give certain sums as "free gifts of love" this will be all right. It specifies that copyrighted outlines may be purchased from the St. Germain Press to be followed by each group which were enumerated as follows:

(1) Regular study groups
(2) Fundamental groups
(3) Group leaders instructions
(4) Sunday school

The booklet refers to "100% Groups" but does not identify their nature. It specifies that no one should be allowed to attend a study group until he has attended the full 7 classes and has received a suitable card of admission to the study group from the one in charge of the fundamental group. It states that until permanent cards are provided by the St. Germain Press each group leader is being asked to provide suitable cards for his own groups which will be considered by the BALLARDS as evidence that a person holding one is a real "I AM student" when they apply for one of the large class cards.

Mrs. FOWLER advised that 100% students of the I AM are those who are believed by the group leader to implicitly follow the instructions of St. Germain which specify that no meat is to be eaten, that the member is not to use narcotics, tobacco, liquor, excess sugar, salt, strong tea or coffee and that no member is to indulge in any kind of sex activity. Each 100% member is to examine his own conscience to see whether he desires the instruction of the "mighty I AM presence" more than anything else and lives to serve it only. This booklet has been identified by the writer and is being furnished to the El Paso Field Division for its information as an enclosure.

62 - 56722 - 109

Mrs. FOWLER advised that she was closely identified with the group in Seattle until about January 1941, when she withdrew and resigned her leadership. Thereafter she stated that the group in Seattle was managed by Mr. DAVID SAYRE for a time and later was taken over by Mrs. JESSIE J. BULLIS who resides in the Cornelius Apartments, 306 Blanchard Street and holds meetings at the I AM meeting room 209½ Seneca Street in Seattle. Mrs. FOWLER stated that DAVID SAYRE left Seattle in order to go to work at the I AM mine which is located near Boulder, Colorado. Mrs. FOWLER advised that this mine was donated to the BALLARDS by a rich student and the proceeds of the mining operations go directly to the BALLARDS who claim to administer them for the benefit of all the I AM students. Mrs. FOWLER stated that during the time she was the leader of the group at Seattle they were holding meetings at the Montlake Theatre which she rented for this purpose and the group was constantly enlarging as new members came into the activity. She believed for a long time that the group was trying to promote the golden rule among its members and so was sincerely interested in promoting its activities here in Seattle. She stated that she began to doubt the organization when it manifested political interests and the government began to investigate its mail fraud aspects. Thereafter she withdrew from the group and testified at the mail fraud trial at Los Angeles, California.

During a class in 1939 at Los Angeles Mrs. FOWLER heard Mrs. BALLARD say that there were 1,000,000 people in contact with the work and before another year passed there would be 2,000,000 followers, and as soon as they reached 3,000,000 they could govern the United States. Mrs. FOWLER stated she did not believe the group ever had 3,000,000 members but that the membership must have been considerable in view of some of the testimony she had heard concerning the number of books sold by the BALLARDS to members of the organization.

Mrs. FOWLER recalled that from October 18, to October 27, 1940 BILL CASSIERE who is presently in the U.S. Army but who at that time was an "accredited messenger" or national representative for the I AM cult, was in Seattle and he there informed the students that the trial against the BALLARDS, himself and other defendents was soon to begin. He asked for "love gifts" and stated that if they were not forthcoming and Mrs. BALLARD was convicted all of the I AM students would go to concentration camps, the group leaders to jail and all reading rooms would be closed.

Mrs. FOWLER advised that "love gifts" were commonly accepted by the members as a means of indicating their respect and admiration for the BALLARDS and the I AM activity and that these gifts were placed in a box

which was maintained at the meeting place for this purpose. She advised that the BALLARDS wished people to believe that no money was collected, but as a matter of fact considerable amounts of money were sent by each group to the national organization as a result of these "love gifts" received from students. When CASSIERE came to Seattle in 1940 he was collecting money for a defense fund and at one time Mrs. FOWLER received a letter from the St. Germain Defense Fund requesting her to solicit amounts from all the students to forward to a post office box address at Los Angeles. She stated that this money was collected from the students and forwarded to Los Angeles for this purpose.

One of the activities in Seattle which was carried on by the group was the arrangement of radio broadcasts over KOL. The broadcast consisted entirely of recordings of instructions by the BALLARDS for students and was continued for sometime 15 minutes a week on Sunday morning. Mrs. FOWLER stated that the program was paid for by Mr. J. D. ZINKE who owns the J. D. Zinke shoe repair shops on the West Coast and who was an I AM follower at that time. Mrs. FOWLER stated, however, that money was used from national funds to pay for these broadcasts in part but she was not certain how this was arranged. At one time in 1938 the Seattle group rented records from the BALLARDS to play over the radio at a rate of $20 per record and after these records were used they were returned to Mrs. BALLARD. The BALLARDS were constantly urging Mrs. FOWLER to get enough money together to pay for the radio time, but the Seattle group was unable to contribute enough to pay for this time entirely.

Mrs. FOWLER stated that some of the decree books contained decrees against the draft and she stated that since the time she left the organization the BALLARDS had become more violently opposed to the Selective Service system, particularly, she believed, because DON was eligible for service. She understood that when Mrs. BALLARD was at a meeting in September of 1942 she had given decrees against the draft and she furnished the writer with a copy of one of these decrees which is not set forth here inasmuch as it is found in one of the decree books later referred to. Mrs. FOWLER knew that many of the persons who were members were sincerely trying to better themselves morally by becoming members of the I AM group and she recalled that many of the persons who belonged at Seattle were very fine people whom she was certain had no subversive tendencies of any kind. She stated that members became so endowed with the infallibility of the BALLARDS that they were sometimes trapped into following their orders even though they might advocate opposition to the draft.

She stated that when the organization was founded on a national scale, a former lieutenant of PELLEY was made a messenger by the BALLARDS and that he had written to the Silver Shirt organization in Seattle

to advise them to join the I AM cult on Silver Shirt stationery. As a result of this Mrs. FOWLER knew that some of the members of the I AM cult at Seattle were silver Shirts prior to the time they became members or were interested in Silver Shirt activities. She stated that DAVID SAYRE and GEORGE PATTERSON who were very active in the I AM groups at Seattle were formerly Silver Shirts. She believed that PATTERSON was now at Santa Fe, New Mexico and that SAYRE had left the group and was somewhere near Boulder, Colorado.

She recalled that shortly after SAYRE took over the leadership of this group in January of 1941 he received a message from the national headquarters which was later repudiated by Mrs. BALLARD, to the effect that the students must leave the West Coast since a catastrophe was to annihilate all the people who lived here because of the punishment of the leaders of the I AM at Los Angeles. Mrs. FOWLER believed that this message was brought to Seattle by EARL THOMAS who was an "accredited messenger" of the I AM cult but that later SAYRE told everyone that this was not a bona fide message from the leadership of the I AM cult or from St. Germain. As a result of the fact that this message was given to the members at Seattle numerous persons left Seattle and went to Santa Fe or Boulder or Denver, Colorado which were suggested places of refuge from the impending holocaust.

A list of members which Mrs. FOWLER had previously furnished to confidential informant SE-1 was obtained and reviewed with her and she pointed out the names of various members who had definitely left the organization to her own knowledge. These persons who were formerly members and are now out of the organization are the following:

MILLARD GRANT ARNOLD and wife, Route 2, Box 945, Edmonds, Washington
Mr. A. L. CLEVELAND, 1508 Franklin Avenue, Seattle, Washington
Mr. FERD and FAY B. WHEELER, 10329 Meridian Avenue, Seattle, Washington, telephone, Vermont 2975
Mrs. ELVA P. SMITH, c/o JOHN J. SULLIVAN, Smith Tower Building, Seattle, Washington

Of the members she pointed out the ones which had gone to Sante Fe or Denver as a result of the message above referred to and these will be designated in the membership list by an appropriate symbol.

Mrs. FOWLER believed that some of the young men were encouraged to resist the Selective Service system by the I AM cult but she had no definite information to this effect. She stated she had obtained the information

regarding the decrees against the draft from Mr. A. L. CLEVELAND and that she had attended no meetings of the organization since she left it in 1941. She stated the membership list previously furnished was one of that date and that other persons may have left the group since she was a member. Mrs. FOWLER furnished several copies of the "Voice of the I AM" which are being forwarded to the El Paso Field Division as enclosures with this report.

Mrs. HAZEL M. BRITTON, executive secretary, Seattle Better Business Bureau, 857 Central Building, advised that the I AM first came to the attention of that Bureau on January 14, 1938 when the Los Angeles office wrote concerning it. A letter dated January 28, 1938 shows that the Chicago Better Business Bureau found that a commercial agency had a record of a GUY B. BALLARD who lived at 6525 Bosworth Street, Chicago in 1928. At that time he was 48, married and was secretary of the Cottonwood Association, Ltd., Room 81, 30 North LaSalle Street. The association was a trust association under Federal laws organized to develop western land. When he was interviewed he refused to state where the lands were but advised he was also interested in the development of Arizona mining property.

The Chicago office also advised that on March 23, 1929 two indictments were returned in Cook County against GUY BALLARD for operating a confidence game. The complaining witnesses were MINNIE J. ANDERSON of 4700 Beacon Street, Chicago and ADELENE BECK, 628 Gary Place. The indictments were dismissed August 16, 1929 with leave to reinstate because BALLARD was outside the jurisdiction.

Mrs. BECK was interviewed by the Chicago office and stated that the indictment was in connection with a gold mining stock promotion scheme called the "Lake of Gold Inc.". One HERBERT M. PARKHURST was associated with BALLARD in the Lake of Gold project.

An attorney ALFRED F. BECK represented a complainant against BALLARD, a MARY I. INGHAM of Chicago who was fleeced by BALLARD in a gold mining scheme.

In June 1937 BALLARD resided with his wife EDNA at 1620 East 84th Street, Chicago and he left that year for California.

Regarding the St. Germain press, Post Office Box 1133, Chicago, Illinois, the Chicago office had advised that the name appeared as early as 1934 with a bank account in Chicago. A local publisher REUBEN R. DONNELLEY in 4 years prior to 1939 printed about $100,000 worth of material for the St. Germain press.

By letter dated June 24, 1938 the San Francisco office advised that the cult had a local office there and that Mr. and Mrs. FRANCIS EKEY were leaders in San Francisco.

In February 1939 the Los Angeles Office wrote saying that Washington, D.C. had received an inquiry from Attorney PERCILLA LAWYER RANDOLPH asking for copies of letters addressed from GERALD B. BRYAN which requested information about BALLARD. The Los Angeles office indicated that such inquiries should be referred there since Los Angeles had a considerable file on BALLARD and was interested in what RANDOLPH was seeking information regarding BRYAN about.

On May 13, 1939 Miss CORA TRENT CLIFFORD, 353 West 57th Street, New York said the cult claimed 400,000 members in a letter directed to the Seattle office and that it had a large reading room in Seattle. On June 23, 1939 a WILLIAM J. MARTIN whose address is unknown, wrote stating two families he knew were leaving Seattle because of the I AM cult and that the group condemed Russia but said nothing about Germany, Italy and Japan. He requested information concerning the organization but since no address was furnished by him his letter was not answered.

Mr. ARCHIE TAFT, manager of KOL, Northern Life Tower Building, advised that a fifteen minute program for the I AM cult was first placed through the Allied Advertising Agency, Inc. 553 Southwestern Avenue, Los Angeles, California and that this contract was continued from August 28, 1938 to August 20, 1939. He advised that later material for the I AM was placed through the Ted Dahl Advertising Agency 4354 West 3rd Street, Los Angeles. This material was placed for an indefinite period on August 27, 1939.

He stated the group had a fifteen minute period on Sunday and used transcriptions which came from the headquarters of the I AM at Los Angeles. The programs were sponsored by J. D. ZINKE of the Zinke Shoe Stores and the local I AM group represented by Mrs. FOWLER. They were discontinued about the end of 1940 when the organization was being prosecuted at Los Angeles.

Mr. ROY S. LEIGHTON, personnel manager, Frederick and Nelson, 5th and Pine Street, address Route 2, Box 945 Edmonds, Washington advised that he and his wife were members of the I AM organization from the beginning of 1938 to the end of 1940. He stated that it was about as fine a group of people as he ever met and he had no indication that it was engaged in subversive activity although they opposed war as a malignant activity. He stated that the principles urged members not to have a destructive or unkind thought and above all to avoid any such acts. His only criticism of the organization was that they continually sought money either for

publications or as "love gifts". He stated that the following employees of Frederick and Nelson are presently active in the youth group of the organization which is called the Ascended Masters Youth.

Miss AGNES BAXTER, 7413 8th Avenue N.W., telephone, Sunset 2053
Miss MARGARET SAYRE, daughter of DAVID SAYRE, referred to above, 919 2nd Avenue West, Garfield 1328
Miss CLARA WIESS, 203 Bellevue Avenue North, telephone, East 9825

Mr. LEAVERETT G. TALLMAN, a salesman with offices at 1024 Joshua Green Building, home address, Route 1, Edmonds, Washington advised that he had been interested in the organization of the BALLARDS since 1935 when he first saw them addressing a group at the Chamber of Commerce Building. He stated he was a member of the I AM until 1938 but that he left the organization because Mrs. BALLARD dismissed Mrs. M. O. ADAMS who lives near Poulsbo, Washington and who was leading a group of study students to which TALLMAN belonged.

He stated in January or February of 1943 Mrs. BALLARD came to Seattle and had a chat with him. He refused to go back into the organization although she requested him to do so. Mr. TALLMAN advised that he had been a member of the Silver Shirt Legion of American at one time and that GEORGE PATTERSON of Seattle who was a local leader of the Silver Shirts had gone to Boulder, Colorado to be a mining engineer for the I AMs at their mine there. He did not believe that Mr. PATTERSON was still in the organization. It is noted that Mr. TALLMAN was in correspondence with Mr. H. E. MARTIN, executive director of the Foundation Fellowship, a BALLARD front organization at Ashville, North Carolina, in 1935. At that time he indicated that he was active at Seattle in attempting to build a "Christian Commonwealth" and that he was acquainted with Mr. ROBERT C. SUMMERVILLE, who was a leader of the organization of the Silver Shirts in Seattle.

Mr. ALBERT L. CLEVELAND, who is employed as a music instructor by the Sherman Clay Company 1624 4th Avenue and who resides at 1508 East Franklin Avenue, advised he was a member of the I AM at Seattle from 1936 until September 1942. He resigned because he was unable to believe the tenats of the cult and felt that Mrs. BALLARD was a fraud.

During the time he was a member he had charge of the music. He stated that at meetings the group sang songs of a patriotic nature which were songs in praise of the BALLARDS and various other ascended masters. He stated that the organization never advocated the non-purchase of war bonds

but were against the draft and in September 1942 Mrs. BALLARD led the group in decrees against the draft. He stated the group was anti ROOSEVELT, anti-Communist but not anti-Semitic as far as he knew. He said meetings were open until about the first part of 1941 or the latter part of 1940 when they began to hold closed meetings. At that time they issued membership cards containing the name and number.

Regarding the organization in Seattle he believed there were about 180 active members in September 1942. About 75 to 100 attended meetings and there were less than 60 men who were members. He advised that JAMES OAHILL, a Seattle Tacoma Shipbuilding Corporation hull foreman, was head of the men's group called the "Minute Men". The women were organized and directed by JESSIE BULLIS who was leader of all the Seattle activities. They were called the "Daughters of Light". The young people were known as the "Youth Group" or the "Ascended Masters Youth" group and when he left the organization the various groups met en todo about four times a week. He said Mrs. BULLIS lives at the Cornclius Apartments with her son, CHARLES, who works for the I AM movement.

At the present time they have a music temple which is in operation 24 hours a day. At this temple they play records of I AM music. The organization is self supporting in Seattle and in fact sends money to Los Angeles for the national organization. He stated the following persons are other members who are active at the present time:

KATHLEEN OAHILL, sister of JAMES
SAM McLAREN
JOHN C. FLAGLER
Mr. LOYD
Mr. FRANKLIN, employed Pacific Coast Stamp Works
Mrs. TRIXIE COLLINS, employed City Planning Commission
Mr. C. C. RUMTE, janitor, Bigelow Building
Miss ELEANOR THOMPSON, who was formerly a leader of a small group at Tacoma where meetings were held near the Y.M.C.A. building.
Mrs. MARYBELLE BEERMAN

Mr. CLEVELAND could not recall the exact decree which was given by Mrs. BALLARD against the draft but he stated that it was not similar to the one published in the I AM decrees but was made up by Mrs. BALLARD at the time.

Mrs. ALVA P. SMITH, 7407 35th Avenue N.E., telephone, Vermont 3389 advised that it was two years since she had attended meetings regularly but she has been very friendly with Mrs. CATHERINE R. FLAGLER, 2049 36th

N.E. and her husband, JOHN C. FLAGLER, who operates the Twin Fir Studios, a photographic shop at 12530 Bothell Way, telephone, Sheridan 4820. She stated they are 100% members of the activity.

Mrs. SMITH stated she started attending the meetings of the group in 1938 when they were holding meetings in the theatre at Montlake. At that time Mrs. FOWLER was the leader at Seattle.

In January 1941, Mr. DAVID SAYRE took over the leadership of the group and about the end of that year, Mrs. BULLIS came in to take over the leadership after being appointed by Mrs. BALLARD. Regarding the policies of the group, she stated you have to attend seven weeks of fundamental classes before you can attend a study group or a major meeting. She advised that fundamental group membership cards had been issued to her and she furnished them to the writer so that they might be photographed. Photographs of her fundamental membership cards were made and it is noted that one of these cards has on the one side, "I AM Study group, fundamental No. 161", and on the other side it has a list of dates beginning August 4, 1941 and ending September 15, 1941 showing attendance at seven meetings. Another card which was green in color had printed on one side, "I AM reading room, New Orpheum Theatre Building, Seattle, Washington" and on the back was written, Mrs. ALVA P. SMITH, 7047 35th N.E. Seattle, Washington and the number 161. The third card was headed No. 161 and it had Mrs. SMITH's signature written on it. In printing on the front of the card was the following: "Admit the undersigned to Seattle I AM sanctuary Study Group". The back of this card stated, "The holder of this card has attended seven fundamental classes, January to July 1941" and was signed "Sanctuary group". Mrs. SMITH also possessed identification card No. 12819 which was issued by the national organization through Mrs. FOWLER on August 6, 1940. The card stated that it was not transferable and must not be loaned and bore the following statement in printing: "This card is issued to the person whose signature appears below to grant him or her admission to the private classes conducted by Mr. and Mrs. G. W. BALLARD and son, DONALD, in consideration of certain guarantees of good faith offerred by the signer and attested to on the registration blank. This card must be kept on the person of the signer when on the premises and is subject to immediate return without protest on request". The negatives of the various membership cards are being forwarded to the El Paso Field Division and one print of each card is being retained in the files of the Seattle Field Division.

About September of 1941 Mrs. SMITH stated that the I AMs had available at the reading room copies of a speech against "Unions Now". Mrs.

BALLARD sent for 1,000 copies of this speech to someplace in Washington, D.C. and they were distributed at the headquarters of the I AM in Seattle.

About this time Mrs. FLAGLER went to Los Angeles to a class of I AMs and wrote that there was a movement on foot to sell this country to England and that St. Germain had told Mrs. BALLARD that the activity of the decrees was against this movement. Mrs. SMITH stated that Mrs. FLAGLER told her at one time that Mrs. BALLARD had told the young people who belonged to the I AM to go to Denver, Colorado to avoid the draft. Later however, Mrs. FLAGLER said that Mrs. BALLARD had not made this statement.

In 1940 PAUL STICKELL, an accredited messenger of the I AM came to Seattle with a form letter to be written to various senators and Congressmen in order to influence them in favor of the I AM organization. A copy of the form letter referred to by Mrs. SMITH was later obtained from Mrs. FOWLER and is being forwarded as an enclosure with this report to the EL Paso Field Division. The letter states that the I AM activity is an educational and patriotic activity and that thousands of people are interested. It advises that it is against Communism, Fascism, Nazism the Fifth Column and all subversive activities and is designed to sustain our form of government in its original form.

Mrs. SMITH stated that it might be desirable to contact Miss MARGARET BALL who is employed at Lowman and Hanford who was formerly a member of the I AM cult. She furnished copies of the decrees of the I AM group which are being furnished as an enclosure with this report to El Paso. She also furnished the booklet entitled, "I AM Fundamental Group Instructions" which is being furnished as an enclosure with this report to the El Paso Field Division.

Mr. T. V. DEMPSEY, employed John Davis and Company, 807 2nd Avenue advised that the building at 209½ Seneca Street is rented by his agency and that the space therein on the mezzanine floor has been rented for two years by Mrs. JESSIE BULLIS. She pays $115 a month in cash and a new lease was signed on May 15, 1943 for one year. A Mrs. FLORENCE HEATON signed the lease of April 15, 1942 as a witness. There was no record of this individual in the 1942 city directory.

Mrs. THELMA HOUSE, telephone operator, Cornelius Apartments, 306 Blanchard, advised that Mrs. JESSIE BULLIS resided in apartment 803. She is usually alone in the apartment but her son visits her at times. She dresses in purple and has several children, one of whom is married and in

Seattle, one who is married and in Chicago. She is described as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Age | 58 |
| Height | 5'3½" |
| Weight | 125 |
| Hair | Red |

There is no record of Mrs. BULLIS at the Seattle Police Department or King County Sheriff's Office, however the Seattle Credit Bureau records reflect that Mrs. JESSIE F. BULLIS of the Cornelius Apartments, in September 1934 resided at 6222 29th Avenue N.E., and resided at 2911 East 73rd Street in January 1936, and presently resides in the Cornelius Apartments.

She was formerly employed as a file clerk with McKesson Stewart and Holmes in 1934 and later as a stenographer and bookkeeper at Underwood Typewriter Company, Seattle. She listed no references and her credit is satisfactory for small amounts.

A check of the records of the Captain of the Port reflect that JAMES JOSEPH CAHILL was presently residing at 6325 14th Avenue N.E.; telephone Kenwood 6887. He was born October 7, 1897 at Denver, Colorado. He has as relatives the following persons:

MARIE BRAWLEY, sister, 501 Harvard Avenue North, Seattle, Washington
KATHLEEN CAHILL, sister, 501 Harvard Avenue North, Seattle, Washington
JACK M. CAHILL, brother, Seattle, Washington

He stated that he attended Broadway High School, was employed by the Seattle Tacoma Shipbuilding Corporation and was formerly employed by the Bremerton Navy Yard. He gave as references the following persons:

K. C. HOPEY, 3367 46th Avenue N.E. Seattle, Washington
SAMUEL McLAREN, Hotel Linwood, Seattle, Washington
WALTER LOYD, 10710 Victory Lane, Seattle, Washington

A picture of him was obtained and is being retained in the file of this case.

The files of the Captain of the Port also reflect that SAMUEL S. McLAREN who was born November 9, 1890 at Forest Hill, Prince Edward Island Canada and who was formerly employed by the Puget Sound Navy Yard, is

presently working for the Todds Seattle Dry Dock Company. He stated he was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He gave as references the following persons:

JOHN M. MILLER 1200 Alki, Seattle, Washington
J. J. CAHILL, 6325 14th Avenue N.E., Seattle, Washington
Mr. NISSON, 2805 East Madison, Seattle, Washington

He stated he was naturalized at Garden City, New York on June 7, 1918. A picture of him was obtained and is being retained in the file of this case.

A review of the decrees furnished by Mrs. ALVA SMITH referred to above reflects that in the one set of decrees the following decrees are of interest:

No. 14 ASCENSION FOR WAR VICTIMS

"Mighty I AM Presence" and all Great Beings and Forces of Light! Take command of all who are forced out of the body through war or made to go to war against their will and give them their Ascension in this embodiment.

No. 18 WORLD DISPENSATIONS

"Mighty I AM Presence", All Great Beings and Forces of Light! In the name of the humanity of earth, we call to the Great Central Sun to Saint Germain whatever Dispensations are necessary to stop the on-rushing war thruout the world.

No. 28 IMMEDIATE DISPENSATION REQUIRED

(Jesus, at the Chicago Class, asked all to make this call quickly and steadily so this Light can act, before war can be brought into America. The destructive forces are planning to draw America into war within the next six months.)

"Mighty I AM Presence" and all Great Beings from the Great Central Sun! In the name of the humanity of earth and the sanity of mankind, give to Saint Germain, Jesus, Arcturus, the Goddess of Liberty and Others of the Ascended Masters whatever Dispensations are required to release that Light as of a thousand suns THIS INSTANT everywhere; and to annihilate all human selfishness and discord from the planet forever. Do this in the Name of the Light of God that never fails and hold it eternally sustained.

No. 114 The MOTHERS' DECREE FOR OUR PEOPLE

"Mighty I AM Presence," Great Host of Ascended Masters and all Great Beings from the Great Central Sun! Charge the mothers in America with the Ascended Masters' Understanding of their authority over the bodies of our people; because the mothers are connected with those bodies! Make them use that authority now to prevent war!

In the name of the mothers of the people of the United States of America, by the Ascended Master's Power of the "Mighty I AM Presence" and the full Ascended Masters Cosmic Authority of Life, "I AM the Presence" commanding that the destructive forces in the government of the United States of America shall NOT destroy our people, our Freedom, our Divine Justice, our Prosperity, nor our country by war nor any other destructive activity!

No. 117 PRESSURE OF LIGHT

"Mighty I AM Presence" and Great Host of Ascended Masters! Release unto me now, the full Power and Pressure of Light required to produce the instantaneous Ascended Master Miracles, Victories and Perfection of the Light which must manifest here and now; to set America free forever from all that seeks to draw her people into war!

No. 327 MISCELLANEOUS DECREES

BLAST all war off the earth!
"Mighty I AM"!

BLAST all war off the earth!
By thy Command!

BLAST all war off the earth!
By Thy Blue Ray!

BLAST all war off the earth!
Stop it! Today!

No. 406 COMPELLING PERFECTION Archangel Michael and Legions of Light!

Thru ___ Compel your personal Ray!
Compel Your Protection to stay!
Compel Your Miracles each hour!
Compel Your Great Cosmic Power!

Compel Your Victory now!
Take Command! Compel all to bow!
Hold control! Compel Freedom now!
Rule all! Compel Divine Justice now!
Illumine all! Compel Perfection now!
Take all! Take your toll now!

Note: Use the above form for the following:

All National Defense
The draft
The United States Supreme Court
The Constitution of the United States of America
The Declaration of Independence
Magna Carta
Congress
The Senate
The House of Representatives
The Postal Department
The Income Tax Department
The Department of Justice
The War Department
Department of Labor

No. 430 "MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE," HIGHER MENTAL BODIES OF ALL MANKIND, ALL GREAT BEINGS, POWERS AND LEGIONS OF LIGHT! SMASH, BLAST AND ANNIHILATE!
(Repeat after each line)

All . . . . . from our land!
All . . . . . by God's Hand!
All . . . . . now today!
All . . . . . now to stay!
All . . . . . in every way!
All . . . . . By God's Blue Ray!
All . . . . . its cause, effect, record and memory to stay!

GOD ALMIGHTY ACT! ACT! ACT! AND FOREVER HOLD SWAY!

Use the above for the following:
All against the National Defense of Our Land!
All war plans for America from Our Land!
All poverty from our land!

All ignorance from our land!
All intended destruction from our land!

No. 494 KILL ALL WAR PLANS

"MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE," HIGHER MENTAL BODIES OF ALL MANKIND, ALL GREAT BEINGS, POWERS AND LEGIONS OF LIGHT!

43
21
22

Kill all war plans from our land!
Kill all war plans by God's Hand!
Kill all war plans now today!
Kill all war plans nor to stay!
Kill all war plans in every way!
Kill all war plans by God's Blue Ray!
Kill all war plans, their cause, effect, record and memory to stay!

And annihilate! Annihilate! Annihilate! all war plans from America and the world in every way; and make them take their toll in the brains and bodies of the war makers and their claws today!

GOD ALMIGHTY ACT! ACT! ACT! AND FOREVER HOLD SWAY!

No. 503 LEGAL ACTIVITIES

"MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE," GREAT HOST OF ASCENDED MASTERS AND ALL COSMIC BEINGS!

I refuse to accept those indictments, that tax investigation, that citation or that plagiarism suit any longer or that draft for our American boys. "I AM" the Presence which by the Power of This Light is your Master! Be Thou dissolved and consumed by the Powers of Light Forever!

A review of the files of the Seattle Field Division reflects that Mrs. BULLIS was listed as a member of the Silver Shirts or as a person interested in the Silver Shirts in the files of WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY recovered at Ashville, North Carolina and in the files of ROBERT CARLYLE SUMMERVILLE.

The files also reflect that CHARLES NEWBERRY BULLIS is presently a Selective Service delinquent with his Local Board No. 245, 2301 46th Street, Long Island City, New York for failure to advise of change of address and appear before the advisory board on April 13, 1943. CHARLES BULLIS is reportedly taking his obligations under the Selective Service Act very lightly and was doing work for the I AM group traveling around the country in connection with their activities. He was reported to

object to service in the Army because of his religious beliefs. BULLIS was arrested at Seattle by Special Agent FRED CONNERS and stated that he was willing to serve in the Army and that the I AM cult did not teach objection to the Selective Service Act from conscientious or other motives. He advised the cult was opposed to the war but not to the draft and that members were willing to serve even in combatant capacity. Mrs. BULLIS was interviewed in attempting to locate her son and she furnished substantially similar information concerning the cult and its beliefs.

A review of the files reflects that JAMES WARD KEMP who was formerly a member at Seattle of the I AM cult was reported as delinquent under the Selective Service Act on December 14, 1942 for failure to keep the Local Draft Board 6, Seattle advised of his change of address and to fill out and complete his questionnaires. KEMP was apprehended at Santa Fe, New Mexico on March 11, 1943 and cleared his delinquency. Various informants in this case indicated that KEMP might be avoiding service because of his interest in the work of the I AM group but there was no definite information that this group influenced KEMP to avoid the Selective Service Act.

LOUIS BURBICK, JR. a member of the I AM group at Seattle has also been reported as a Selective Service delinquent and cleared his delinquency as a result of his arrest at Ouray, Colorado. He was delinquent with King County Board 3 at Kent, Washington for failure to report for induction. He was arrested at Ouray, Colorado on June 3, 1943 by the Sheriff at that Place.

It is noted that in the files of the Seattle Field Division a Mrs. LALLA C. CHESLEY, 1931 9th Avenue West, Seattle, Washington reported that CHARLES BULLIS was dodging the draft, September 19, 1942, by falsely claiming to support his mother and that he is commonly known as the "red headed angel" of the I AM cult.

The following list of names is a list of the members of the organization furnished to confidential informant SE-1. It reflects membership as of January 1941.

HULME, HILDA V., 9898 California Avenue, West 9706
HENN, EDITH, 7502 15th N.E., Kenwood 5089
HESSE, JOYCE L., 3507 W. Ida Street, West 2340
HOLMBERG, SOPHIE, 307 1/2 W. Mercer
HARLANDER, FRANK, 3737 University Way, Melrose 9691

HARRISON, MAUDE, 2629 W. 60th
HARLANDER, EMMA, 3737 University Way, Melrose 9691
HARKER, LENORE, Calhoun Hotel, Main 9160
HALFERTY, ROSE F., 7619 Linden Avenue, Hemlock 3125
HUGHES, CHARLOTTE B., 1711 Bellevue
HAMMOND, CORA, 4511 W. Lander, West 3155
HEALY, NADINE and BESSIE, 1209 N. 45th, Melrose 2577
HOWARD, ELIZABETH, 2416 1st N. Garfield 0336
HUNTINGTON, F. LORENE, 1104 8th Avenue W., Garfield 7246
HARTZELL, FRED and wife, 3737 University Way, Melrose 9691
INGE, Hulda, 308 Bell Street
JAKLON, EMMA H. 432 Bellevue North, Capital 7183
JENSEN, MARGARET, Box 395, Kirkland, Washington
JELLUM LOTTIE and BERTIE, 7723 32nd N.E., Kenwood 3341
JOHNSON, BERNICE and MARTIN, 290½ Seneca Street
KELLOGG, GERTRUDE, 2700 4th Avenue, #54, Seneca 9770
KUMP, JAMES W. and JINIERED, 1518 E. 169th Street, Sheridan 5562
KNUTSEN, MARTHA, 1156 Denny Way, Main 8548
KEMP, KATHLEEN, 134 Boylston Avenue N., Capital 3767
LILLEO, JOHN and JOSEPHINE, 1200 Alki Avenue, West 4932
LILLIE, FRANCES, 15 W. Prospect Street, Garfield 2102
LINDBLOOM, CALLA, 9999 47th Avenue S.W.
LOWE, EDNA EARL, 105 14th Avenue, East 9684
LOYD, WALTER and BEATRICE, 10710 Victory Lane
LEREN, NELS and PEARL, 5733 37th Avenue S. Rainier 4836
LEIGHTON, ROY and GLADYS, RFD No. 2, Box 945 Edmonds, Washington
Edmonds 432
LARSON, HANS, 6708 9th Avenue N.W., Sunset 2719
MONSEY, EMMA, 1040 Rainier Avenue
MORGAN, SAMUEL, 1904 Minor Avenue, Main 1385
MORRIS, EMILYE, 115 Bellevue North
McLAREN, SAM S., 415 Seneca Street, Seneca 0750
McELROY, MADELINE, 1516 30th Avenue South
McCOY, CHARLES and FRANCES M., 2758 Westlake North, Alder 0648
McCAULEY, ELIZABETH A., 4512 45th N.E., Kenwood 0932.
MILLION, BEATRICE, 712 Broadway North, Capital 1170
MILLER, SADIE, 8825 17th N.E., Kenwood 5672
MILLER, CARRIE E., 5016 15th Avenue N., East 6474
MICHAELIS, BRUNO and JANNETTE, 8317 54th Street S., Rainier 2217
MERK, ETHEL R., 115 Bellevue North
MATHESON, CLARA B., 1612 Boylston, East 9618
MARTIN, ADA, 1316 Terry Avenue, Main 0216

AALMBERG, LORENA, 6407 36th Avenue N.W., Sunset 4487
NELSON MARGARET, 1410 Hanford Street
BURBICK, MARY HELEN, Zenith, Washington
BURBICK, LOUIS, Zenith, Washington
ARNOLD, MILLARD GRANT and wife, RFD 2, Box 945, Edmonds, Wash.
ADAIS, ERMA, 928 28th Avenue, Prospect 1167
ANDERSON, J. V., 804 E. Howell, East 5592
AKERS, FERN, 8721 2nd Avenue N.W.
BENNETT, CHARMION and IRENE, 512 Boylston Avenue N., Capital 1477
BLALOCK, LILLIAN, 7416 44th SW, West 7188
BAXTER, NAN, Evangeline Hotel, Elliot 7650
BALL, CLARA E., MARGARET, and ETHEL, 2728 Boylston Avenue North
BINNING, CHARLES, 909 6th Avenue, Elliot 6048
BAKER, GRACE, 19062 Ballinger Way
BOSTONIAN, S. A. and ESTHER, 5225 11th Avenue, N.E., Kenwood 0861
BUFFINGTON, Mrs. LAURA, 4319 35th Avenue W.
BUSBY, AMANDA, 5231 45th Avenue S.W., West 7170
BOLT, JUANITA, 5118 W. Charlestown Street, West 1435
CARLSON, ANNA KRISTINE, 8036 12th Avenue N.W.
CALLAHAN, KATHERINE, 1521 17th Avenue
CAHILL, CATHLEEN and JAMES J., 6325 14th N.E., Kenwood 6887
CADY, MORRIS, 209½ Seneca Street
CUTTING, DON and MARTHA, 4338 Phinney Avenue
CRAIG, PAULA A., 1717 Belmont Avenue, Capital 9788
CORRIGAN, MINNIE J., 329 N. 72nd, Sunset 6747
COLLINS, TRIXIL, 361 Wheeler Street, Garfield 5977
CLEVELAND, A. L., 1508 Franklin Avenue, Capital 2167
CASH, H. MARIE, 304 Bell Street, Elliot 4529
DRAPER, JONE and MAY, 1205 Stewart, Seneca 9812
DODTE, BLANCHE, 1400 Boren Avenue, Elliot 4437
DENTON, JESSIE, 431 14th Avenue N. #7, East 9738
DEARINGER, JOAN, 5268 University Way, Kenwood 1751
DATES, FRANCES, 12314 34th Avenue N.E.
EASTWOOD, KATHERINE, 2014 Terry Avenue
EDWARDS, MARGARET, 919 N. 83rd
EMBLER, EUNICE M., 9002 Palatine Avenue
ECKAS, FRED CONRAD, 4327 Bagley Avenue, Melrose 9323
FRANKLIN, JOSEPH K., 1726 Summit Avenue
FORREST, MABEL, 611 Warren Avenue, Bremerton, Wash.
FLAGLER, JOHN C. and CATHERINE, 12049 36th N.E., Sheridan 4820
FIFE, ELLEN D., 3041 Kromer Avenue, Everett, Wash.
FEHR, FRED, 129 N.W. 144th Street
FAY, ISABEL, 208 Boylston N. Capital 2004
FING, AMELIA, 8234 Wallingford
GARNER, DORIS, ELIZABETH, and LILITH, 1303 6th Avenue N.
Garfield 9329

F.T.C. - Lists applying 2/11/43 gdb

GLEASON, LESTA B. 3905 Burke Avenue, Melrose 2289
GOULD, CLARA, 7413 8th N.W., Sunset 2053
GRAY, CARRIE, 3034 26th Avenue W. Garfield 2954
GAMBLE, MARGARET, 3842 45th S.W.
GREEN, EVELYN T., 2806 60th W. Sunset 7913
GOEGLEIN, MARY, 1413 1st Avenue N.
HOOPER, FANNY, 504 9th Avenue, Main 4908
HUBBARD, NELLIE, 6017 Roosevelt Way, Kenwood 8361
McMANUS, PHYLLIS, 209½ Seneca Street
MACK, CLAUS G., 1209 W. Howe
MILLOW, WILLIAM H., 1612 Boylston
MURRAY, GLADYS, 730 16th Avenue N.
NILSON, CHARLES, Box 2294, Route 1, Mercer Island, Washington
NOE, FRANK, O.K. Hotel
ONSTAD, JOHN and PETRENA, 1532, 3rd Avenue W., Garfield 0503
ORGAIN, ERMA I., 105 Harvard N., Capital 7455
NAUD, JOHN, 209½ Seneca Street
NISSEN, O. A. and family, 901 26th Avenue, N. East 3226
GEORGE, BETTY RAE
PATERSON, MARGARET, 201½ Seneca Street
PATERSON, GRACE, 1316 Terry Avenue, Main 0216
REYMOND, NELLIE R., Rt. 2, Bothell, Washington
RICHARDSON, GILDON, 504 E. Union, Prospect 8945
RUNOLFSON, SIGRUN, 2011 Boylston Avenue N., Capital 5820
PRESCOTT, BELLE, 1317 Boren Avenue, Main 7125
PETERSON, ZELLA, 123 N. 101st Street
RUSSELL, BETTY, 409 Eastlake
RUSSELL, PEARL E., 3229 W. 57th, Sunset 6417
SORBER, MARIL, 708 Union, Elliot 8787
STANLEY, ETHEL, 2018 4th Avenue, Elliot 9107
ROGERS, ALICE, 345 N. 81st Street
RUNTZ, C. G., 3252 36th Avenue W., Garfield 3128
RAWLINGS, WINIFRED, 7723 32nd N.E., Kenwood 3341
SEYMOUR, MARGARET, 1400 Boren Avenue, Elliot 4437
SPRAGUE, GEORGE and MARY, 9033 8th S.W., West 3862
SPALDING, CHARLOTTE, 2959 W. 61st Street, Sunset 1616
SLATER, Mrs. ARTHUR, 841 Sullivan Street, Rainier 2576
SCRIBNER, MARGARET, 3661 Phinney, Kenwood 1371
SHOUP, CAROL N., 3599 East L. Street, Tacoma, Washington
SCHNEIDER, GERTRUDE, 2806 60th West
SPEARS, ANNA M., 516 E. Union Street
SUMNER, BERTHA, 209½ Seneca Street
STRICUP, CLARA, 912 E. Pike, East 9898
SCHWABLAND, LOUIS A., 1431 Minor Avenue, Main 9283
SMITH, ELIZABETH, 1205 Stewart Street, Seneca 9812
STOCKER, ELVA, Rt. 7, Box 302, Glendale 2429

SNOW, MABEL BRIGGS, 6414 9th N.E., Kenwood 4712
THOMPSON, ELEANORE, McCormick's, 3rd Avenue, Elliot 5416
THUE, ANTON and IVER, P.O.Box 5003, Ballard Station, Seattle, Sunset 5237
TOWER, GEORGIA, 1226 Warren Place, Alder 1062
VAN DRONGELEN, ANTON and MARY, 3637 14th W., Alder 1648
WAITE, ALICE H. 5626 42nd Avenue S.W., West 8105
WELCH, LEAH-BENKE, 3075 Ballinger Way, Rt. 1, Sheridan 4871
WESSON, RUTH, 1416 N. 46th
WELSH, Mrs. FLORENCE, 1316 Terry Avenue, Main 0216
YAPAOLO, AMEDIO, 712 1st Avenue, Seneca 9061
TAYLOR, DORYS, 311 Cornwall Court, East 0165
THOME, Mrs. LURA V., 105 Harvard N.
TOMPLINS, ALICE and J. E., 306 E. 85th, Kenwood 7430
WELIS, MARY ANN, Textile Tower
WHEELER, FAY B. and FERD, 10329 Meridian Avenue, Vermont 2975
WEISE, CLARA, 1620 9th Avenue
SMITH, ELVA, c/o John J. Sillivan, Smith Tower
JOHNSON, NELLIE, 4412 Myrtle Street, Rainier 6935
HUFF, ETHAL A., 310 W. Howe Street, Garfield 3195
JUDY, AMY, 4509 Linden Avenue, Melrose 4739
ALLETT, ALTA, 1818 20th Avenue, East 9678
BANKS, ESTHER, 906 Eastlake, Capital 0706
HOPKINS, MARGARET, 728 Concord Street
BRENNER, HELEN, 2121 7th Avenue, Elliot 9890
BRYSE, JOSEPH, Rt. 2, Box 565, Renton, Washington
CHALMERS, ELLEN, 2142 N. 61st Street, Kenwood 2991
CHAMBERLAIN, FLORENCE, 3517½ Fremont Avenue
CHURCHWELL, PEARL J., 4512 Cascadia Avenue, Rainier 6314
DAWSON, ALBERT J., 6724 Jones Avenue N.W.
COOPER, WILMA, 4150 23rd S.W. West 2461
BULLIS, JESSIE and CHARLES, 209½ Seneca Street
DAWSON, ETHEL, Box 699
DECKER, HANNAH, 9326 California Avenue, West 3119
FLACK, WILLIAM, 1906 45th S.W., West 1815
KLEINKE, PEARL M. and WILLIAM H. 2307 33rd Avenue S.
KINKER, MARIE, 1736 Belmont Avenue, Prospect 8205
OLSEN, EULALIE, 3014 37th S.W., West 8504
SOKALICH, MAY, 743 N. 72nd
MONTELL, KATHLEEN, 3628 Lucille Street, Rainier 3477
McGINNIS, LAURA, 1619 Summit Avenue, East 0622
THATCHER, METTA, 6730 Division Avenue N.W., Sunset 0897
THATCHER, HOWARD C., 6730 Division Avenue N.W., Sunset 0897

COFFIN, EARL P. and JOSEPHINE, 1422 37th Avenue, Capital 6164
STANSBURY, SYLVIA, 1807 Olive Way, East 1476
SMITH, FRANK A., 1912 Franklin Avenue, Capital 2353
ELIASSEN, SUSIE T., 715 24th Avenue, #106
NONTELL, Mrs. L., 3826 Lucille Street, Rainier 3477
NUTTING, MARGARET M., 1104 8th Avenue West, Garfield 7246
MALTBY, LILLIAN G., 725 Broadway North, Capital 2002
BARTON, EMILY, Public School Teacher, Olympia, Washington

(* indicates members believed to have gone to Santa Fe or Denver as a result of the message that I AM members should vacate the West Coast)

Mrs. FOWLER indicated that the following persons, whose names are listed above, are now dead.

Margaret Gambee, 3842 45th S.W.
Alice Rogers, 345 N. 81st Street
Cora Hammond, 4511 W. Lander,

ENCLOSURES TO EL PASO FIELD DIVISION

(1) 19 copiex of issues of the "Voice of the I AM".
(2) Booklet entitled, "Group Leaders Instruction, III"
(3) Copy of form letter which I AM group was to send to Congressmen and Senators
(4) 7 negatives of photographs of I AM membership cards of Mrs. SMITH
(5) 2 booklets of I AM decrecs
(6) Booklet entitled, "I AM Fundamental Group Instructions II"
(7) Booklet entitled, "I AM Light Decrees"
(8) Booklet entitled, "I AM Decrees for America's Freedom".

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE ORIGIN -

The Los Angeles, Denver and Chicago offices are being furnished with a copy of this report for their information because people are referred to in the report that are presently located in these cities.

FD-72

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO 100-94

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
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| Seattle, Washington | 11/15/43 | 6/7,29,30 7/2, 6,7,12,14,21,26 8/3-5,7,8,10 10/11,18,29, 30/43 | FRANCIS E. BRIGHT LBC |
| TITLE "I AM" CULT, A Religious Organization | | | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Investigation at Seattle reflects that certain decrees against the Selective Service Act have been issued and repeated by the I AM group as recently as November 1942. The son of the group leader at Seattle is presently a draft delinquent and was recently arrested at Seattle and two other members of the organization at Seattle have been reported as draft delinquents. Membership list at Seattle obtained and set forth.

-RUC-

REFERENCE: Letter from Bureau dated June 15, 1943. Report of SA JOHN J. BRACKEN dated May 20, 1943 at Chicago, Illinois.

DETAILS: Mrs. DOTTIE D. FOWLER, 1808 24th Avenue North, telephone East 0042, advised that she first heard of the BALLARD family in the spring of 1935 at which time the BALLARDS were conducting a series of lectures at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium in Seattle. She had previously been interested in theosophy and the Unity movement and was impressed by Mr. BALLARD's claim that he had been reincarnated to save the rest of the World by teaching them the doctorines of St. Germain and the instructions of the "I AM". Thereafter she attended several meetings conducted by the BALLARDS in Seattle and was contacted by a Mrs. JENSEN who came from Los Angeles to organize groups of the I AM cult at Seattle, Washington. Mrs. JENSEN suggested that Mrs. FOWLER be a leader of the group in Seattle and with some reluctance Mrs. FOWLER agreed to do so.

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Thereafter she was furnished with several books of instructions on how to conduct meetings of the I AM cult. She had in her possession the I AM group leader's instruction book No. 3 which is copyrighted by the St. Germain Press, Inc, 1940 and was published by that press at P. O. Box 1133, Chicago, Illinois with a branch office at P.O.Box 428 Los Angeles, California. This book was written by Mrs. G. W. BALLARD and DONALD BALLARD and gives 18 pages of instructions on how to conduct meetings and the purposes and aims of the I AM cult. On page 4 of this book it states that the purpose of the study groups organized by the I AM is to enable the people of America to understand the instruction of the "ascended masters" and through their own calls to the "mighty I AM presence" secure assistance to protect America against war and destruction. The book states that group leaders should not ask for money or assistance, but that if money is needed for group activities, a meeting should be had at which all request the "I AM presence" to send money and thereafter if the members themselves wish to give certain sums as "free gifts of love" this will be all right. It specifies that copyrighted outlines may be purchased from the St. Germain Press to be followed by each group, which were enumerated as follows:

(1) Regular study groups
(2) Fundamental groups
(3) Group leaders instructions
(4) Sunday school

The booklet refers to "100% Groups" but does not identify their nature. It specifies that no one should be allowed to attend a study group until he has attended the full 7 classes and has received a suitable card of admission to the study group from the one in charge of the fundamental group. It states that until permanent cards are provided by the St. Germain Press each group leader is being asked to provide suitable cards for his own groups which will be considered by the BALLARDS as evidence that a person holding one is a real "I AM student" when they apply for one of the large class cards.

Mrs. FOWLER advised that 100% students of the I AM are those who are believed by the group leader to implicitly follow the instructions of St. Germain which specify that no meat is to be eaten, that the member is not to use narcotics, tobacco, liquor, excess sugar, salt, strong tea or coffee and that no member is to indulge in any kind of sex activity. Each 100% member is to examine his own conscience to see whether he desires the instruction of the "mighty I AM presence" more than anything else and lives to serve it only. This booklet has been identified by the writer and is being furnished to the El Paso Field Division for its information as an enclosure.

Mrs. FOWLER advised that she was closely identified with the group in Seattle until about January 1941 when she withdrew and resigned her leadership. Thereafter she stated that the group in Seattle was managed by Mr. DAVID SAYRE for a time and later was taken over by Mrs. JESSIE J. BULLIS who resides in the Cornelius Apartments, 306 Blanchard Street, and holds meetings at the I AM meeting room 209½ Seneca Street in Seattle. Mrs. FOWLER stated that DAVID SAYRE left Seattle in order to go to work at the I AM mine which is located near Boulder, Colorado. Mrs. FOWLER advised that this mine was donated to the BALLARDS by a rich student and the proceeds of the mining operations go directly to the BALLARDS who claim to administer them for the benefit of all the I AM students. Mrs. FOWLER stated that during the time she was the leader of the group at Seattle they were holding meetings at the Montlake Theatre which she rented for this purpose and the group was constantly enlarging as new members came into the activity. She believed for a long time that the group was trying to promote the golden rule among its members and so was sincerely interested in promoting its activities here in Seattle. She stated that she began to doubt the organization when it manifested political interests and the government began to investigate its mail fraud aspects. Thereafter she withdrew from the group and testified at the mail fraud trial at Los Angeles, California.

During a class in 1939 at Los Angeles Mrs. FOWLER heard Mrs. BALLARD say that there were 1,000,000 people in contact with the work and before another year passed there would be 2,000,000 followers, and as soon as they reached 3,000,000 they could govern the United States. Mrs. FOWLER stated she did not believe the group ever had 3,000,000 members but that the membership must have been considerable in view of some of the testimony she had heard concerning the number of books sold by the BALLARDS to members of the organization.

Mrs. FOWLER recalled that from October 18, to October 27, 1940 BILL CASSIERE who is presently in the U.S. Army but who at that time was an "accredited messenger" or national representative for the I AM cult, was in Seattle and he there informed the students that the trial against the BALLARDS, himself and other defendents was soon to begin. He asked for "love gifts" and stated that if they were not forthcoming and Mrs. BALLARD was convicted all of the I AM students would go to concentration camps, the group leaders to jail and all reading rooms would be closed.

Mrs. FOWLER advised that "love gifts" were commonly accepted by the members as a means of indicating their respect and admiration for the BALLARDS and the I AM activity and that these gifts were placed in a box

which was maintained at the meeting place for this purpose. She advised that the BALLARDS wished people to believe that no money was collected, but as a matter of fact considerable amounts of money were sent by each group to the national organization as a result of these "love gifts" received from students. When CASSIERE came to Seattle in 1940 he was collecting money for a defense fund and at one time Mrs. FOWLER received a letter from the St. Germain Defense Fund requesting her to solicit amounts from all the students to forward to a post office box address at Los Angeles. She stated that this money was collected from the students and forwarded to Los Angelcs for this purpose.

One of the activities in Seattle which was carried on by the group was the arrangement of radio broadcasts over KOL. The broadcast consisted entirely of recordings of instructions by the BALLARDS for students and was continued for sometime 15 minutes a week on Sunday morning. Mrs. FOWLER stated that the program was paid for by Mr. J. D. ZINKE who owns the J. D. Zinke shoe repair shops on the West Coast and who was an I AM follower at that time. Mrs. FOWLER stated, however, that money was used from national funds to pay for these broadcasts in part but she was not certain how this was arranged. At one time in 1938 the Seattle group rented records from the BALLARDS to play over the radio at a rate of $20 per record and after these records were used they were returned to Mrs. BALLARD. The BALLARDS were constantly urging Mrs. FOWLER to get enough money together to pay for the radio time, but the Seattle group was unable to contribute enough to pay for this time entirely.

Mrs. FOWLER stated that some of the decree books contained decrees against the draft and she stated that since the time she left the organization the BALLARDS had become more violently opposed to the Selective Service system, particularly, she believed, because DON was eligible for service. She understood that when Mrs. BALLARD was at a meeting in September of 1942 she had given decrees against the draft and she furnished the writer with a copy of one of these decrees which is not set forth here inasmuch as it is found in one of the decree books later referred to. Mrs. FOWLER knew that many of the persons who were members were sincerely trying to better themselves morally by becoming members of the I AM group and she recalled that many of the persons who belonged at Seattle were very fine people whom she was certain had no subversive tendencies of any kind. She stated that members became so endowed with the infallibility of the BALLARDS that they were sometimes trapped into following their orders even though they might advocate opposition to the draft.

She stated that when the organization was founded on a national scale, a former lieutenant of PELLEY was made a messenger by the BALLARDS and that he had written to the Silver Shirt organization in Seattle

to advise them to join the I AM cult on Silver Shirt stationery. As a result of this Mrs. FOWLER knew that some of the members of the I AM cult at Seattle were silver Shirts prior to the time they became members or were interested in Silver Shirt activities. She stated that DAVID SAYRE and GEORGE PATTERSON who were very active in the I AM groups at Seattle were formerly Silver Shirts. She believed that PATTERSON was now at Santa Fe, New Mexico and that SAYRE had left the group and was somewhere near Boulder, Colorado.

She recalled that shortly after SAYRE took over the leadership of this group in January of 1941 he received a message from the national headquarters which was later repudiated by Mrs. BALLARD, to the effect that the students must leave the West Coast since a catastrophe was to annihilate all the people who lived here because of the punishment of the leaders of the I AM at Los Angeles. Mrs. FOWLER believed that this message was brought to Seattle by EARL THOMAS who was an "accredited messenger" of the I AM cult but that later SAYRE told everyone that this was not a bona fide message from the leadership of the I AM cult or from St. Germain. As a result of the fact that this message was given to the members at Seattle numerous persons left Seattle and went to Santa Fe or Boulder or Denver, Colorado which were suggested places of refuge from the impending holocaust.

A list of members which Mrs. FOWLER had previously furnished to confidential informant SE-1 was obtained and reviewed with her and she pointed out the names of various members who had definitely left the organization to her own knowledge. These persons who were formerly members and are now out of the organization are the following:

MILLARD GRANT ARNOLD and wife, Route 2, Box 945, Edmonds, Washington
Mr. A. L. CLEVELAND, 1508 Franklin Avenue, Seattle, Washington
Mr. FERD and FAY B. WHEELER, 10329 Meridian Avenue, Seattle, Washington, telephone, Vermont 2975
Mrs. ELVA P. SMITH, c/o JOHN J. SULLIVAN, Smith Tower Building, Seattle, Washington

Of the members she pointed out the ones which had gone to Sante Fe or Denver as a result of the message above referred to and these will be designated in the membership list by an appropriate symbol.

Mrs. FOWLER believed that some of the young men were encouraged to resist the Selective Service system by the I AM cult but she had no definite information to this effect. She stated she had obtained the information

regarding the decrees against the draft from Mr. A. L. CLEVELAND and that she had attended no meetings of the organization since she left it in 1941. She stated the membership list previously furnished was one of that date and that other persons may have left the group since she was a member. Mrs. FOWLER furnished several copies of the "Voice of the I AM" which are being forwarded to the El Paso Field Division as enclosures with this report.

Mrs. HAZEL M. BRITTON, executive secretary, Seattle Better Business Bureau, 857 Central Building, advised that the I AM first came to the attention of that Bureau on January 14, 1938 when the Los Angeles office wrote concerning it. A letter dated January 28, 1938 shows that the Chicago Better Business Bureau found that a commercial agency had a record of a GUY B. BALLARD who lived at 6525 Bosworth Street, Chicago in 1928. At that time he was 48, married and was secretary of the Cottonwood Association, Ltd., Room 81, 30 North LaSalle Street. The association was a trust association under Federal laws organized to develop western land. When he was interviewed he refused to state where the lands were but advised he was also interested in the development of Arizona mining property.

The Chicago office also advised that on March 23, 1929 two indictments were returned in Cook County against GUY BALLARD for operating a confidence game. The complaining witnesses were MINNIE J. ANDERSON of 4700 Beacon Street, Chicago and ADELENE BECK, 628 Gary Place. The indictments were dismissed August 16, 1929 with leave to reinstate because BALLARD was outside the jurisdiction.

Mrs. BECK was interviewed by the Chicago office and stated that the indictment was in connection with a gold mining stock promotion scheme called the "Lake of Gold Inc.". One HERBERT M. PARKHURST was associated with BALLARD in the Lake of Gold project.

An attorney ALFRED F. BECK represented a complainant against BALLARD, a MARY I. INGHAM of Chicago who was fleeced by BALLARD in a gold mining scheme.

In June 1937 BALLARD resided with his wife EDNA at 1620 East 84th Street, Chicago and he left that year for California.

Regarding the St. Germain press, Post Office Box 1133, Chicago, Illinois, the Chicago office had advised that the name appeared as early as 1934 with a bank account in Chicago. A local publisher REUBEN R. DONNELLEY in 4 years prior to 1939 printed about $100,000 worth of material for the St. Germain press.

By letter dated June 24, 1938 the San Francisco office advised that the cult had a local office there and that Mr. and Mrs. FRANCIS EKEY were leaders in San Francisco.

In February 1939 the Los Angeles Office wrote saying that Washington, D.C. had received an inquiry from Attorney PERCILLA LAWYER RANDOLPH asking for copies of letters addressed from GERALD B. BRYAN which requested information about BALLARD. The Los Angeles office indicated that such inquiries should be referred there since Los Angeles had a considerable file on BALLARD and was interested in what RANDOLPH was seeking information regarding BRYAN about.

On May 13, 1939 Miss CORA TRENT CLIFFORD, 353 West 57th Street, New York said the cult claimed 400,000 members in a letter directed to the Seattle office and that it had a large reading room in Seattle. On June 23, 1939 a WILLIAM J. MARTIN whose address is unknown, wrote stating two families he knew were leaving Seattle because of the I AM cult and that the group condemed Russia but said nothing about Germany, Italy and Japan. He requested information concerning the organization but since no address was furnished by him his letter was not answered.

Mr. ARCHIE TAFT, manager of KOL, Northern Life Tower Building, advised that a fifteen minute program for the I AM cult was first placed through the Allied Advertising Agency, Inc. 553 Southwestern Avenue, Los Angeles, California and that this contract was continued from August 28, 1938 to August 20, 1939. He advised that later material for the I AM was placed through the Ted Dahl Advertising Agency 4354 West 3rd Street, Los Angeles. This material was placed for an indefinite period on August 27, 1939.

He stated the group had a fifteen minute period on Sunday and used transcriptions which came from the headquarters of the I AM at Los Angeles. The programs were sponsored by J. D. ZINKE of the Zinke Shoe Stores and the local I AM group represented by Mrs. FOWLER. They were discontinued about the end of 1940 when the organization was being prosecuted at Los Angeles.

Mr. ROY S. LEIGHTON, personnel manager, Frederick and Nelson, 5th and Pine Street, address Route 2, Box 945 Edmonds, Washington advised that he and his wife were members of the I AM organization from the beginning of 1938 to the end of 1940. He stated that it was about as fine a group of people as he ever met and he had no indication that it was engaged in subversive activity although they opposed war as a malignant activity. He stated that the principles urged members not to have a destructive or unkind thought and above all to avoid any such acts. His only criticism of the organization was that they continually sought money either for

publications or as "love gifts". He stated that the following employees of Frederick and Nelson are presently active in the youth group of the organization which is called the Ascended Masters Youth.

Miss AGNES BAXTER, 7413 8th Avenue N.W., telephone, Sunset 2053
Miss MARGARET SAYRE, daughter of DAVID SAYRE, referred to above, 919 2nd Avenue West, Garfield 1328
Miss CLARA WIESS, 203 Bellevue Avenue North, telephone, East 9825

Mr. LEAVERETT G. TALLMAN, a salesman with offices at 1024 Joshua Green Building, home address, Route 1, Edmonds, Washington advised that he had been interested in the organization of the BALLARDS since 1935 when he first saw them addressing a group at the Chamber of Commerce Building. He stated he was a member of the I AM until 1938 but that he left the organization because Mrs. BALLARD dismissed Mrs. M. O. ADAMS who lives near Poulsbo, Washington and who was leading a group of study students to which TALLMAN belonged.

He stated in January or February of 1943 Mrs. BALLARD came to Seattle and had a chat with him. He refused to go back into the organization although she requested him to do so. Mr. TALLMAN advised that he had been a member of the Silver Shirt Legion of American at one time and that GEORGE PATTERSON of Seattle who was a local leader of the Silver Shirts had gone to Boulder, Colorado to be a mining engineer for the I AMs at their mine there. He did not believe that Mr. PATTERSON was still in the organization. It is noted that Mr. TALLMAN was in correspondence with Mr. H. E. MARTIN, executive director of the Foundation Fellowship, a BALLARD front organization at Ashville, North Carolina, in 1935. At that time he indicated that he was active at Seattle in attempting to build a "Christian Commonwealth" and that he was acquainted with Mr. ROBERT C. SUMMERVILLE, who was a leader of the organization of the Silver Shirts in Seattle.

Mr. ALBERT L. CLEVELAND, who is employed as a music instructor by the Sherman Clay Company 1624 4th Avenue and who resides at 1508 East Franklin Avenue, advised he was a member of the I AM at Seattle from 1936 until September 1942. He resigned because he was unable to believe the tenats of the cult and felt that Mrs. BALLARD was a fraud.

During the time he was a member he had charge of the music. He stated that at meetings the group sang songs of a patriotic nature which were songs in praise of the BALLARDS and various other ascended masters. He stated that the organization never advocated the non-purchase of war bonds

but were against the draft and in September 1942 Mrs. BALLARD led the group in decrees against the draft. He stated the group was anti ROOSEVELT, anti-Communist but not anti-Semitic as far as he knew. He said meetings were open until about the first part of 1941 or the latter part of 1940 when they began to hold closed meetings. At that time they issued membership cards containing the name and number.

Regarding the organization in Seattle he believed there were about 180 active members in September 1942. About 75 to 100 attended meetings and there were less than 60 men who were members. He advised that JAMES CAHILL, a Seattle Tacoma Shipbuilding Corporation hull foreman, was head of the men's group called the "Minute Men". The women were organized and directed by JESSIE BULLIS who was leader of all the Seattle activities. They were called the "Daughters of Light". The young people were known as the "Youth Group" or the "Ascended Masters Youth" group and when he left the organization the various groups met en todo about four times a week. He said Mrs. BULLIS lives at the Cornelius Apartments with her son, CHARLES, who works for the I AM movement.

At the present time they have a music temple which is in operation 24 hours a day. At this temple they play records of I AM music. The organization is self supporting in Seattle and in fact sends money to Los Angeles for the national organization. He stated the following persons are other members who are active at the present time:

KATHLEEN CAHILL, sister of JAMES
SAM McLAREN
JOHN C. FLAGLER
Mr. LOYD
Mr. FRANKLIN, employed Pacific Coast Stamp Works
Mrs. TRIXIE COLLINS, employed City Planning Commission
Mr. C. G. RUMTE, janitor, Bigelow Building
Miss ELEANOR THOMPSON, who was formerly a leader of a small group at Tacoma where meetings were held near the Y.M.C.A. building.
Mrs. MARYBELLE BEERMAN

Mr. CLEVELAND could not recall the exact decree which was given by Mrs. BALLARD against the draft but he stated that it was not similar to the one published in the I AM decrees but was made up by Mrs. BALLARD at the time.

Mrs. ALVA P. SMITH, 7407 35th Avenue N.E., telephone, Vermont 3389 advised that it was two years since she had attended meetings regularly but she has been very friendly with Mrs. CATHERINE R. FLAGLER, 2049 36th

N.E. and her husband, JOHN C. FLAGLER, who operates the Twin Fir Studios, a photographic shop at 12530 Bothell Way, telephone, Sheridan 4820. She stated they are 100% members of the activity.

Mrs. SMITH stated she started attending the meetings of the group in 1938 when they were holding meetings in the theatre at Montlake. At that time Mrs. FOWLER was the leader at Seattle.

In January 1941, Mr. DAVID SAYRE took over the leadership of the group and about the end of that year, Mrs. BULLIS came in to take over the leadership after being appointed by Mrs. BALLARD. Regarding the policies of the group, she stated you have to attend seven weeks of fundamental classes before you can attend a study group or a major meeting. She advised that fundamental group membership cards had been issued to her and she furnished them to the writer so that they might be photographed. Photographs of her fundamental membership cards were made and it is noted that one of these cards has on the one side, "I AM Study group, fundamental No. 161", and on the other side it has a list of dates beginning August 4, 1941 and ending September 15, 1941 showing attendance at seven meetings. Another card which was green in color had printed on one side, "I AM reading room, New Orpheum Theatre Building, Seattle, Washington" and on the back was written, Mrs. ALVA P. SMITH, 7047 35th N.E. Seattle, Washington and the number 161. The third card was headed No. 161 and it had Mrs. SMITH's signature written on it. In printing on the front of the card was the following: "Admit the undersigned to Seattle I AM sanctuary Study Group". The back of this card stated, "The holder of this card has attended seven fundamental classes, January to July 1941" and was signed "Sanctuary group". Mrs. SMITH also possessed identification card No. 12819 which was issued by the national organization through Mrs. FOWLER on August 6, 1940. The card stated that it was not transferable and must not be loaned and bore the following statement in printing: "This card is issued to the person whose signature appears below to grant him or her admission to the private classes conducted by Mr. and Mrs. G. W. BALLARD and son, DONALD, in consideration of certain guarantees of good faith offerred by the signer and attested to on the registration blank. This card must be kept on the person of the signer when on the premises and is subject to immediate return without protest on request". The negatives of the various membership cards are being forwarded to the El Paso Field Division and one print of each card is being retained in the files of the Seattle Field Division.

About September of 1941 Mrs. SMITH stated that the I AMs had available at the reading room copies of a speech against "Unions Now". Mrs.

BALLARD sent for 1,000 copies of this speech to someplace in Washington, D.C. and they were distributed at the headquarters of the I AM in Seattle.

About this time Mrs. FLAGLER went to Los Angeles to a class of I AMs and wrote that there was a movement on foot to sell this country to England and that St. Germain had told Mrs. BALLARD that the activity of the decrees was against this movement. Mrs. SMITH stated that Mrs. FLAGLER told her at one time that Mrs. BALLARD had told the young people who belonged to the I AM to go to Denver, Colorado to avoid the draft. Later however, Mrs. FLAGLER said that Mrs. BALLARD had not made this statement.

In 1940 PAUL STICKELL, an accredited messenger of the I AM came to Seattle with a form letter to be written to various senators and Congressmen in order to influence them in favor of the I AM organization. A copy of the form letter referred to by Mrs. SMITH was later obtained from Mrs. FOWLER and is being forwarded as an enclosure with this report to the EL Paso Field Division. The letter states that the I AM activity is an educational and patriotic activity and that thousands of people are interested. It advises that it is against Communism, Fascism, Nazism the Fifth Column and all subversive activities and is designed to sustain our form of government in its original form.

Mrs. SMITH stated that it might be desirable to contact Miss MARGARET BALL who is employed at Lowman and Hanford who was formerly a member of the I AM cult. She furnished copies of the decrees of the I AM group which are being furnished as an enclosure with this report to El Paso. She also furnished the booklet entitled, "I AM Fundamental Group Instructions" which is being furnished as an enclosure with this report to the El Paso Field Division.

Mr. T. V. DEMPSEY, employed John Davis and Company, 807 2nd Avenue advised that the building at 209½ Seneca Street is rented by his agency and that the space therein on the mezzanine floor has been rented for two years by Mrs. JESSIE BULLIS. She pays $115 a month in cash and a new lease was signed on May 15, 1943 for one year. A Mrs. FLORENCE HEATON signed the lease of April 15, 1942 as a witness. There was no record of this individual in the 1942 city directory.

Mrs. THELMA HOUSE, telephone operator, Cornelius Apartments, 306 Blanchard, advised that Mrs. JESSIE BULLIS resided in apartment 803. She is usually alone in the apartment but her son visits her at times. She dresses in purple and has several children, one of whom is married and in

Seattle, one who is married and in Chicago. She is described as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Age | 58 |
| Height | 5'3½" |
| Weight | 125 |
| Hair | Red |

There is no record of Mrs. BULLIS at the Seattle Police Department or King County Sheriff's Office, however the Seattle Credit Bureau records reflect that Mrs. JESSIE F. BULLIS of the Cornelius Apartments, in September 1934 resided at 6222 29th Avenue N.E., and resided at 2911 East 73rd Street in January 1936, and presently resides in the Cornelius Apartments.

She was formerly employed as a file clerk with McKesson Stewart and Holmes in 1934 and later as a stenographer and bookkeeper at Underwood Typewriter Company, Seattle. She listed no references and her credit is satisfactory for small amounts.

A check of the records of the Captain of the Port reflect that JAMES JOSEPH CAHILL was presently residing at 6325 14th Avenue N.E., telephone Kenwood 6887. He was born October 7, 1897 at Denver, Colorado. He has as relatives the following persons:

MARIE BRAWLEY, sister, 501 Harvard Avenue North, Seattle, Washington
KATHLEEN CAHILL, sister, 501 Harvard Avenue North, Seattle, Washington
JACK M. CAHILL, brother, Seattle, Washington

He stated that he attended Broadway High School, was employed by the Seattle Tacoma Shipbuilding Corporation and was formerly employed by the Bremerton Navy Yard. He gave as references the following persons:

K. C. HOPEY, 3367 46th Avenue N.E. Seattle, Washington
SAMUEL McLAREN, Hotel Linwood, Seattle, Washington
WALTER LOYD, 10710 Victory Lane, Seattle, Washington

A picture of him was obtained and is being retained in the file of this case.

The files of the Captain of the Port also reflect that SAMUEL S. McLAREN who was born November 9, 1890 at Forest Hill, Prince Edward Island Canada and who was formerly employed by the Puget Sound Navy Yard, is

presently working for the Todds Seattle Dry Dock Company. He stated he was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He gave as references the following persons:

JOHN M. MILLER, 1200 Alki, Seattle, Washington
J. J. CAHILL, 4325 14th Avenue N.E., Seattle, Washington
Mr. NISSON, 2805 East Madison, Seattle, Washington

He stated he was naturalized at Garden City, New York on June 7, 1918. A picture of him was obtained and is being retained in the file of this case.

A review of the decrees furnished by Mrs. ALVA SMITH referred to above reflects that in the one set of decrees the following decrees are of interest:

No. 14 ASCENSION FOR WAR VICTIMS

"Mighty I AM Presence" and all Great Beings and Forces of Light! Take command of all who are forced out of the body through war or made to go to war against their will and give them their Ascension in this embodiment.

No. 18 WORLD DISPENSATIONS

"Mighty I AM Presence", All Great Beings and Forces of Light! In the name of the humanity of earth, we call to the Great Central Sun to Saint Germain whatever Dispensations are necessary to stop the on-rushing war thruout the world.

No. 28 IMMEDIATE DISPENSATION REQUIRED

(Jesus, at the Chicago Class, asked all to make this call quickly and steadily so this Light can act, before war can be brought into America. The destructive forces are planning to draw America into war within the next six months.)

"Mighty I AM Presence" and all Great Beings from the Great Central Sun! In the name of the humanity of earth and the sanity of mankind, give to Saint Germain, Jesus, Arcturus, the Goddess of Liberty and Others of the Ascended Masters whatever Dispensations are required to release that Light as of a thousand suns THIS INSTANT everywhere; and to annihilate all human selfishness and discord from the planet forever. Do this in the Name of the Light of God that never fails and hold it eternally sustained.

All ignorance from our land!
All intended destruction from our land!

No. 494 KILL ALL WAR PLANS

"MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE," HIGHER MENTAL BODIES OF ALL MANKIND, ALL GREAT BEINGS, POWERS AND LEGIONS OF LIGHT!

Kill all war plans from our land!
Kill all war plans by God's Hand!
Kill all war plans now today!
Kill all war plans nor to stay!
Kill all war plans in every way!
Kill all war plans by God's Blue Ray!
Kill all war plans, their cause, effect, record and memory to stay.!

And annihilate! Annihilate! Annihilate! all war plans from America and the world in every way; and make them take their toll in the brains and bodies of the war makers and their claws today!

GOD ALMIGHTY ACT! ACT! ACT! AND FOREVER HOLD SWAY!

No. 503 LEGAL ACTIVITIES

"MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE," GREAT HOST OF ASCENDED MASTERS AND ALL COSMIC BEINGS!

I refuse to accept those indictments, that tax investigation, that citation or that plagiarism suit any longer or that draft for our American boys. "I AM" the Presence which by the Power of This Light is your Master! Be Thou dissolved and consumed by the Powers of Light Forever!

A review of the files of the Seattle Field Division reflects that Mrs. BULLIS was listed as a member of the Silver Shirts or as a person interested in the Silver Shirts in the files of WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY recovered at Ashville, North Carolina and in the files of ROBERT CARLYLE SUMMERVILLE.

The files also reflect that CHARLES NEWBERRY BULLIS is presently a Selective Service delinquent with his Local Board No. 245, 2301 46th Street, Long Island City, New York for failure to advise of change of address and appear before the advisory board on April 13, 1943. CHARLES BULLIS is reportedly taking his obligations under the Selective Service Act very lightly and was doing work for the I AM group traveling around the country in connection with their activities. He was reported to

object to service in the Army because of his religious beliefs. BULLIS was arrested at Seattle by Special Agent FRED CONNERS and stated that he was willing to serve in the Army and that the I AM cult did not teach objection to the Selective Service Act from conscientious or other motives. He advised the cult was opposed to the war but not to the draft and that members were willing to serve even in combatant capacity. Mrs. BULLIS was interviewed in attempting to locate her son and she furnished substantially similar information concerning the cult and its beliefs.

A review of the files reflects that JAMES WARD KEMP who was formerly a member at Seattle of the I AM cult was reported as delinquent under the Selective Service Act on December 14, 1942 for failure to keep the Local Draft Board 6, Seattle advised of his change of address and to fill out and complete his questionnaires. KEMP was apprehended at Santa Fe, New Mexico on March 11, 1943 and cleared his delinquency. Various informants in this case indicated that KEMP might be avoiding service because of his interest in the work of the I AM group but there was no definite information that this group influenced KEMP to avoid the Selective Service Act.

LOUIS BURBICK, JR. a member of the I AM group at Seattle has also been reported as a Selective Service delinquent and cleared his delinquency as a result of his arrest at Ouray, Colorado. He was delinquent with King County Board 3 at Kent, Washington for failure to report for induction. He was arrested at Ouray, Colorado on June 3, 1943 by the Sheriff at that Place.

It is noted that in the files of the Seattle Field Division a Mrs. LALLA C. CHESLEY, 1931 9th Avenue West, Seattle, Washington reported that CHARLES BULLIS was dodging the draft, September 19, 1942, by falsely claiming to support his mother and that he is commonly known as the "red headed angel" of the I AM cult.

The following list of names is a list of the members of the organization furnished to confidential informant SE-1 It reflects membership as of January 1941.

HULME, HILDA V., 9898 California Avenue, West 9706
HENN, EDITH, 7502 15th N.E., Kenwood 5089
HESSE, JOYCE L., 3507 W. Ida Street, West 2340
HOLMBERG, SOPHIE, 307 1/2 W. Mercer
HARLANDER, FRANK, 3737 University Way, Melrose 9691

HARRISON, MAUDE, 2629 W. 60th
HARLANDER, EMMA, 3737 University Way, Melrose 9691
HARKER, LENORE, Calhoun Hotel, Main 9160
HALFERTY, ROSE F., 7619 Linden Avenue, Hemlock 3125
HUGHES, CHARLOTTE B., 1711 Bellevue
HAMMOND, CORA, 4511 W. Lander, West 3155
HEALY, NADINE and BESSIE, 1209 N. 45th, Melrose 2577
HOWARD, ELIZABETH, 2416 1st N. Garfield 0336
HUNTINGTON, F. LORENE, 1104 8th Avenue W., Garfield 7246
HARTZELL, FRED and wife, 3737 University Way, Melrose 9691
INGE, Hulda, 308 Bell Street
JAKLON, EMMA H. 432 Bellevue North, Capital 7183
JENSEN, MARGARET, Box 395, Kirkland, Washington
JELLUM LOTTIE and BERTIE, 7723 32nd N.E., Kenwood 3341
JOHNSON, BERNICE and MARTIN, 290½ Seneca Street
KELLOGG, GERTRUDE, 2700 4th Avenue, #54, Seneca 9770
KEMP, JAMES W. and WINIFRED, 1518 E. 169th Street, Sheridan 5562
KNUTSEN, MARTHA, 1156 Denny Way, Main 8548
KEMP, KATHLEEN, 134 Boylston Avenue N., Capital 3767
LILLEO, JOHN and JOSEPHINE, 1200 Alki Avenue, West 4932
LILLIE, FRANCES, 15 W. Prospect Street, Garfield 2102
LINDBLOOM, CALLA, 9999 47th Avenue S.W.
LOWE, EDNA EARL, 105 14th Avenue, East 9684
LOYD, WALTER and BEATRICE, 10710 Victory Lane
LEREN, NELS and PEARL, 5733 37th Avenue S. Rainier 4836
LEIGHTON, ROY and GLADYS, RFD No. 2, Box 945 Edmonds, Washington
Edmonds 432
LARSON, HANS, 6708 9th Avenue N.W., Sunset 2719
MONSEY, EMMA, 1040 Rainier Avenue
MORGAN, SAMUEL, 1904 Minor Avenue, Main 1385
MORRIS, EMILYE, 115 Bellevue North
McLAREN, SAM S., 415 Seneca Street, Seneca 0750
McELROY, MADELINE, 1516 30th Avenue South
McCOY, CHARLES and FRANCES M., 2758 Westlake North, Alder 0648
McCAULEY, ELIZABETH A., 4512 45th N.E., Kenwood 0932.
MILLION, BEATRICE, 712 Broadway North, Capital 1170
MILLER, SADIE, 8825 17th N.E., Kenwood 5672
MILLER, CARRIE E., 5016 15th Avenue N., East 6474
MICHAELIS, BRUNO and JANNETTE, 8317 54th Street S., Rainier 2217
MERK, ETHEL R., 115 Bellevue North
MATHESON, CLARA B., 1612 Boylston, East 9618
MARTIN, ADA, 1316 Terry Avenue, Main 0216

MALMBERG, LORENA, 6407 36th Avenue N.W., Sunset 4487
NELSON MARGARET, 1410 Hanford Street
BURBICK, MARY HELEN, Zenith, Washington
*BURBICK, LOUIS, Zenith, Washington
ARNOLD, MILLARD GRANT and wife, RFD 2, Box 945, Edmonds, Wash.
ADAMS, ERMA, 928 28th Avenue, Prospect 1167
ANDERSON, J. V., 804 E. Howell, East 5592
AKERS, FERN, 8721 2nd Avenue N.W.
BENNETT, CHARMION and IRENE, 512 Boylston Avenue N., Capital 1477
BLALOCK, LILLIAN, 7416 44th SW, West 7188
BAXTER, NAN, Evangeline Hotel, Elliot 7650
BALL, CLARA E., MARGARET, and ETHEL, 2728 Boylston Avenue North
BINNING, CHARLES, 909 6th Avenue, Elliot 6048
BAKER, GRACE, 19062 Ballinger Way
BOSTONIAN, S. A. and ESTHER, 5225 11th Avenue, N.E., Kenwood 0861
BUFFINGTON, Mrs. LAURA, 4319 35th Avenue W.
BUSBY, AMANDA, 5231 45th Avenue S.W., West 7170
BOLT, JUANITA, 5118 W. Charlestown Street, West 1435
CARLSON, ANNA KRISTINE, 8036 12th Avenue N.W.
CALLAHAN, KATHERINE, 1521 17th Avenue
CAHILL, CATHLEEN and JAMES J., 6325 14th N.E., Kenwood 6887
†CADY, MORRIS, 209½ Seneca Street
CUTTING, DON and MARTHA, 4338 Phinney Avenue
CRAIG, PAULA A., 1717 Belmont Avenue, Capital 9788
CORRIGAN, MINNIE J., 329 N. 72nd, Sunset 6747
COLLINS, TRIXIE, 361 Wheeler Street, Garfield 5977
CLEVELAND, A. L., 1508 Franklin Avenue, Capital 2167
CASH, H. MARIE, 304 Bell Street, Elliot 4529
DRAPER, JONE and MAY, 1205 Stewart, Seneca 9812
DODTL, BLANCHE, 1400 Boren Avenue, Elliot 4437
DENTON, JESSIE, 431 14th Avenue N. #7, East 9738
DEARINGER, JOAN, 5268 University Way, Kenwood 1751
DATES, FRANCES, 12314 34th Avenue N.E.
EASTWOOD, KATHERINE, 2014 Terry Avenue
EDWARDS, MARGARET, 919 N. 83rd
EMBLER, EUNICE M., 9002 Palatine Avenue
ECKAS, FRED CONRAD, 4327 Bagley Avenue, Melrose 9323
FRANKLIN, JOSEPH K., 1726 Summit Avenue
FORREST, MABEL, 611 Warren Avenue, Bremerton, Wash.
FLAGLER, JOHN C. and CATHARINE, 12049 36th N.E., Sheridan 4820
FIFE, ELLEN D., 3041 Kromer Avenue, Everett, Wash.
*FEHR, FRED, 129 N.W. 144th Street
FAY, ISABEL, 208 Boylston N. Capital 2004
FINE, AMELIA, 8234 Wallingford
GARNER, DORIS, ELIZABETH, and LILITH, 1303 6th Avenue N.
Garfield 9329

GLEASON, LESTA B. 3905 Burke Avenue, Melrose 2289
GOULD, CLARA, 7413 8th N.W., Sunset 2053
GRAY, CARRIE, 3034 26th Avenue W. Garfield 2954
GAMBEE, MARGARET, 3842 45th S.W.
GREEN, EVELYN T., 2806 60th W. Sunset 7913
GOEGLEIN, MARY, 1413 1st Avenue N.
HOOPER, FANNY, 504 9th Avenue, Main 4908
HUBBARD, NELLIE, 6017 Roosevelt Way, Kenwood 8361
McMANUS, PHYLLIS, 209½ Seneca Street
MACK, CLAUS G., 1209 W. Howe
MELLOW, WILLIAM H., 1612 Boylston
MURRAY, GLADYS, 730 16th Avenue N.
NILSON, CHARLES, Box 229A, Route 1, Mercer Island, Washington
NOE, FRANK, O.K. Hotel
ONSTAD, JOHN and PETRENA, 1532, 3rd Avenue W., Garfield 0503
ORGAIN, ERMA I., 105 Harvard N., Capital 7455
NAUD, JOHN, 209½ Seneca Street
NISSEN, O. A. and family, 901 26th Avenue, N. East 3226
GEORGE, BETTY RAE
PATERSON, MARGARET, 201½ Seneca Street
PATERSON, GRACE, 1316 Terry Avenue, Main 0216
REYMOND, NELLIE R., Rt. 2, Bothell, Washington
RICHARDSON, GILDON, 504 E. Union, Prospect 8945
RUNOLFSON, SIGRUN, 2011 Boylston Avenue N., Capital 5820
PRESCOTT, BELLE, 1317 Boren Avenue, Main 7125
PETERSON, ZELLA, 123 N. 101st Street
RUSSELL, BETTY, 409 Eastlake
RUSSELL, PEARL E., 3229 W. 57th, Sunset 6417
SORBER, MARIE, 708 Union, Elliot 8787
STANLEY, ETHEL, 2018 4th Avenue, Elliot 9107
ROGERS, ALICE, 345 N. 81st Street
RUNTZ, C. G., 3252 36th Avenue W., Garfield 3128
RAWLINGS, WINIFRED, 7723 32nd N.E.; Kenwood 3341
SEYMOUR, MARGARET, 1400 Boren Avenue, Elliot 4437
SPRAGUE, GEORGE and MARY, 9033 8th S.W., West 3862
SPALDING, CHARLOTTE, 2959 W. 61st Street, Sunset 1616
SLATER, Mrs. ARTHUR, 841 Sullivan Street, Rainier 2576
SCRIBNER, MARGARET, 3661 Phinney, Kenwood 1371
SHOUP, CAROL N., 3599 East L. Street, Tacoma, Washington
SCHNEIDER, GERTRUDE, 2806 60th West
SPEARS, ANNA M., 516 E. Union Street
SUMNER, BERTHA, 209½ Seneca Street
STALCUP, CLARA, 912 E. Pike, East 9898
SCHWABLAND, LOUIS B., 1431 Minor Avenue, Main 9283
SMITH, ELIZABETH, 1205 Stewart Street, Seneca 9812
STOCKER, ELVA, Rt. 7, Box 302, Glendale 2429

SNOW, MABEL BRIGGS, 6414 9th N.E., Kenwood 4712
THOMPSON, ELEANORE, McCormick's, 3rd Avenue, Elliot 5416
THUE, ANTON and IVER, P.O.Box 5003, Ballard Station, Seattle, Sunset 5237
TONER, GEORGIA, 1226 Warren Place, Alder 1062
VAN DRONGELEN, ANTON and MARY, 3637 14th W., Alder 1648
WAITE, ALICE H. 5626 42nd Avenue S.W., West 8105
WELCH, LEAH BENKE, 3075 Ballinger Way, Rt. 1, Sheridan 4871
WESSON, RUTH, 1416 N. 46th
WELSH, Mrs. FLORENCE, 1316 Terry Avenue, Main 0216
YAPAOLO, AMEDIO, 712 1st Avenue, Seneca 9061
TAYLOR, DORYS, 311 Cornwall Court, East 0165
THOME, Mrs. LURA V., 105 Harvard N.
TOMPLINS, ALICE and J. E., 306 E. 85th, Kenwood 7430
WELLS, MARY ANN, Textile Tower
WHEELER, FAY B. and FERD, 10329 Meridian Avenue, Vermont 2975
WEISE, CLARA, 1620 9th Avenue
SMITH, ELVA, c/o John J. Sillivan, Smith Tower
JOHNSON, NELLIE, 4412 Myrtle Street, Rainier 6935
HUFF, ETHAL A., 310 W. Howe Street, Garfield 3195
JUDY, AMY, 4509 Linden Avenue, Melrose 4739
ALLETT, ALTA, 1818 20th Avenue, East 9678
BANKS, ESTHER, 906 Eastlake, Capital 0706
HOPKINS, MARGARET, 728 Concord Street
BRENNER, HELEN, 2121 7th Avenue, Elliot 9890
BRYSE, JOSEPH, Rt. 2, Box 565, Renton, Washington
CHALMERS, ELLEN, 2142 N. 61st Street, Kenwood 2991
CHAMBERLAIN, FLORENCE, 3517½ Fremont Avenue
CHURCHWELL, PEARL J., 4512 Cascadia Avenue, Rainier 6314
DAWSON, ALBERT J., 6724 Jones Avenue N.W.
COOPER, WILMA, 4150 23rd S.W. West 2461
BULLIS, JESSIE and CHARLES, 209½ Seneca Street
DAWSON, ETHEL, Box 699
DECKER, HANNAH, 9326 California Avenue, West 3119
FLACK, WILLIAM, 1906 45th S.W., West 1815
KLEINKE, PEARL M. and WILLIAM H. 2307 33rd Avenue S.
KINKER, MARIE, 1736 Belmont Avenue, Prospect 8205
OLSEN, EULALIE, 3014 37th S.W., West 8504
SOKALICH, MAY, 743 N. 72nd
NONTELL, KATHLEEN, 3628 Lucille Street, Rainier 3477
McGINNIS, LAURA, 1619 Summit Avenue, East 0622
THATCHER, METTA, 6730 Division Avenue N.W., Sunset 0897
THATCHER, HOWARD C., 6730 Division Avenue N.W., Sunset 0897

COFFIN, EARL P. and JOSEPHINE, 1422 37th Avenue, Capital 6164
STANSBURY, SYLVIA, 1807 Olive Way, East 1476
SMITH, FRANK A., 1912 Franklin Avenue, Capital 2353
ELIASSEN, SUSIE T., 715 24th Avenue, #106
NONTELL, Mrs. E., 3826 Lucille Street, Rainier 3477
NUTTING, MARGARET M., 1104 8th Avenue West, Garfield 7246
MALTBY, LILLIAN G., 725 Broadway North, Capital 2002
BARTON, EMILY, Public School Teacher, Olympia, Washington

(* indicates members believed to have gone to Santa Fe or Denver as a result of the message that I AM members should vacate the West Coast)

Mrs. FOWLER indicated that the following persons, whose names are listed above, are now dead.

Margaret Gambee, 3842 45th S.W.
Alice Rogers, 345 N. 81st Street
Cora Hammond, 4511 W. Lander,

ENCLOSURES TO EL PASO FIELD DIVISION

(1) 19 copies of issues of the "Voice of the I AM"
(2) Booklet entitled, "Group Leaders Instruction, III"
(3) Copy of form letter which I AM group was to send to Congressmen and Senators
(4) 7 negatives of photographs of I AM membership cards of Mrs. SMITH
(5) 2 booklets of I AM decrees
(6) Booklet entitled, "I AM Fundamental Group Instructions II"
(7) Booklet entitled, "I AM Light Decrees"
(8) Booklet entitled, "I AM Decrees for America's Freedom".

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE ORIGIN -

CONFIDENTIAL (U)

NOV 27 1943

68342

IN REPLY REFER TO:
(CIB) IX-0/R-17867m

15 November 1943

Subject: T/5 Donald BALLARD, ASN 38350310, 5th Provisional Training Company, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

To: AC of S, G-2, War Department, Washington, D.C.

1. Reference is made to your letter of 22 June 1943, file C-b6602p, and to the Summary of Information dated 10 June 1943. forwarded to this office, requesting investigation to determine the identity of the above captioned Subject.

2. Inclosed herewith memoranda reports covering investigation conducted in San Francisco and Los Angeles, California from which it is indicated Subject is not identical with Donald LaVern BALLARD, 766 19th Avenue, San Francisco.

3. Investigation discloses Subject is the son of Guy W. Ballard and Edna W. BALLARD founders of the "I Am" cult. Investigation further disclosed a criminal record, but no evidence of subversive activities.

4. Investigation is continuing in this area to interview Norman Neukon and Ralph Lazarus for further information pertaining to Subject and report will be forwarded upon completion.

For the Director, Intelligence Division:

BORIS T. PASH
Lt. Col., M.I.
Chief, Counter Intelligence Branch

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8 GTD/mg
ON 6/28/83
Army letter 4/12/83

1 Incl.: (triplicate)
Incl. #1 Memo Report

MID Disk: TWS
FBI
File

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CONFIDENTIAL (U)

Los Angeles, California
26 October 1943
LA-6523 IX-O/R 17367m

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Subject: DONALD BALLARD
T/5, ACN 33350310
5th Provisional Training Company
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Ref: Covering Memorandum.

I

This investigation was requested by basic communication dated 19 July 1943 from the CAC of S, G-2, WDC, Presidio of San Francisco, California, to determine the discretion, integrity, and loyalty of Subject, who is considered potentially subversive. Also to determine if Subject is identical or in any way connected with Donald LaVern Ballard, a sailor of 766 - 19th Avenue, San Francisco, California.

II

Investigation of Subject disclosed that he is the son of Guy W. and Edna W. Ballard, founders of the "I Am" cult; that Subject's father passed away in December 1939, and his mother operated the cult. Subject was dominated by his mother, who gave him all the money he desired.

Subject was tried together with his mother for fraudulently obtaining money through the mail and found guilty, but has been granted a new trial by the Circuit Court of Appeals. The trial judge stated that there was no evidence in the case indicating that Subject was subversive. Investigation at the Biltmore Hotel, Subject's place of residence; interview with Subject's attorney; and an examination of the files of the Los Angeles Examiner failed to disclose any subversive tendencies of Subject.

MID Det. was notified
FBI
file

Subject's military record shows he was inducted into the Army 20 January 1943 at Santa Fe New Mexico and sent to Fort Bliss, Texas. 6 February 1943 Subject was transferred to Ordnance Replacement Training Center, Aberdeen, Maryland. 15 May 1943 Subject was transferred to 5th Provisional Training Company, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. This record also shows that Subject was born in Chicago, Illinois, 12 May 1918, making Subject twenty-four years of age in 1942. The Donald LaVern Ballard, Sailor, 766 19th Street, San Francisco, California, referred to in Summary of Information, MID, Washington, D. C., dated 10 June 1943 was twenty-eight years of age in 1942. Also police records show he checked out of the Rosslyn Hotel, Los Angeles, California, 2 March 1943, a case having been filed against him for having absconded with $122 of Union dues. The ages and places of residences of Subject and Donald LaVern Ballard



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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Los Angeles, California
26 October 1943
LA-6523 IX-O/R 17667m

68341

Covering Memorandum (Continued)

are not identical and it is believed definitely that they are separate individuals.

III

Although there has not been found any evidence disclosing Subject to be potentially subversive it is recommended that the two Assistant U. S. District Attorneys who were the prosecutors of Subject be first interviewed. Their names and addresses are as follows:

1. Norman Neuken, CWI, San Diego, California.

2. Ralph Lazarus, Army Air Corps, Lemoore Field, California.

NICHOLAS C. DAZZO
Special Agent, CIC

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Los Angeles, California
26 October 1943
LA-6528 IX-O/R 17867m

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

68345

Subject: DONALD BALLARD
T/5, ASN 38350310
5th Provisional Training Company
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Re: Record Check.

On 18 October 1943 this Agent checked the files of the Los Angeles Examiner, Los Angeles, California, concerning the Subject, and also the "I Am" cult.

The files, being both numerous and bulky, dated back from date Subject and his mother was indicted, July 24, 1940. The files show that the "I Am" cult was a religious cult founded by Guy W. Ballard and Edna W. Ballard in Chicago, Illinois; that the main office was moved to California with offices in the Biltmore Hotel, 515 S. Olive Street, Los Angeles, California, and incorporated under the name of the St. Germain Foundation. Books were printed and sold to adherents of the cult. Cost of printing was 27¢ and the books were sold for $2.50.

Members of the "I Am" cult professed to be patriotic and against all Fifth Columnists and strikes. During the trial of Subject, which lasted eight weeks, Subject as well as other adherents wore little flags of the United States in their lapels. Mrs. Edna Ballard claimed that the cult had prevented the West Coast from being bombed.

A review of the various files failed to disclose anything showing that Subject was subversive or that the organization itself was subversive, but there was no doubt that the organization was out to get money in any way possible from adherents and if the leaders had to be subversive to get money then that is what they would do. In other words, the "I Am" cult was purely a racket.

NICHOLAS C. DAZZO
Special Agent, CIC

~~SECRET~~ (U)

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Los Angeles, California
16 October 1943
LA-6523 IX-O/R 17667m

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

68346

Subject: T/5 DONALD BALLARD
ASN 33350310
5th Provisional Training Company
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

Re: Residence Check

On October 15, 1943, this Agent interviewed Mr. Albin Knocke, Assistant Manager, Biltmore Hotel, at the Biltmore Hotel, concerning the Subject.

Mr. Knocke stated he only knew Subject casually as a guest of the hotel, and could not tell anything personally about him.

Records of the hotel showed Subject lived in the hotel from April 2, 1941, until February 4, 1942.

NICHOLAS C. DAZZO
Special Agent CIC

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Los Angeles, California
16 October 1943
LA-6523 IX-O/N 17057a

68317

INFORMATION FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Subject: T/5 DONALD BALLARD
ASN 33370319
5th Provisional Training Company
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

Re: Neighborhood Check

On October 15, 1943, this Agent interviewed Mr. E. S. Bernard, manager, Biltmore Hotel, at his office in the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, California, concerning Subject.

Mr. Bernard stated he knew Subject as a guest of the hotel; that he often talked to him and found Subject to be interested in radio. Subject and his mother, Edna Ballard, never discussed the "I Am Cult" movement according to Mr. Bernard. Mr. Bernard also stated that he never heard Subject say anything regarding the Selective Service law, nor say anything at any time concerning the government which would indicate that Subject was subversive.

Mr. Bernard stated that Subject was personable, and as far as he knew, never got into any argument while in the hotel.

NICHOLAS O. DAZZO
Special Agent CIC

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Los Angeles, California
16 October 1943
LA-6523 IX-O/R 17337m

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Subject: T/5 DONALD BALLARD
ASN 38350310
5th Provisional Training Company
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

Re: Neighborhood Check

On October 15, 1943, this Agent interviewed Mr. J. H. Jefferson, Comptroller of Biltmore Hotel, at his office at the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, California, concerning Subject.

Mr. Jefferson stated he knew Subject as a guest; that he found him to be personable and loyal, and that both Subject and his mother, Edna Ballard, were considered as fine guests in the hotel. Mr. Jefferson stated he often saw Subject in the lobby and the cocktail lounge, that he always was a gentleman, and that he had never heard Subject discuss any matters which would in any way indicate him to be subversive.

NICHOLAS C. DAZZO
Special Agent CIC

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DATE 05-07-2018 BY: [redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

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Los Angeles, California
16 October 1943
LA-6523 IX-O/R 17267m

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Subject: T/5 DONAND BALLARD
ASN 38350310
5th Provisional Training Company
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

Re: Interview with James M. Carter, Acquaintance.

On October 14, 1943, this Agent interviewed James M. Carter, Esquire, Assistant United States District Attorney, at his office in the United States Post Office Building, Los Angeles, California, concerning Subject.

Mr. Carter stated that he was in charge of the Criminal Division of the United States District Attorney's office in Los Angeles, and that he knew Subject only by name and the fact that there was a case pending against Subject, et al, but United States Government for defrauding by use of the mails.

Mr. Carter stated that as he recalled, the actual defendant in the case was Edna W. Ballard, Subject's mother, and that Subject merely went along with his mother as she supplied him with any necessary funds that he might need from time to time.

Mr. Carter stated that the attorneys that had tried the case were: Norman Neukom, Esquire, and Ralph Lazarus, Esquire; that neither was no longer in the United States District Attorney's office. He stated that Neukom is now a member of the Office of Naval Intelligence at San Diego, and Lazarus is now in the Army Air Corps at Lemoore Field, California, and that they could tell much more about the Subject and the working of the "I Am Cult" than probably any other persons other than the organizers in Southern California.

Agent's Notes: — It is recommended that Norman Neukom, Esquire and Ralph Lazarus, Esquire, be interviewed regarding Subject and his relations with the "I Am Cult".

NICHOLAS C. DAZZO
Special Agent CIC

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DATE 05-07-2018 BY: [redacted]

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Los Angeles, California
16 October 1943
LA-6523 IX-C/R 17657a

~~INFORMATION FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE~~

Subject: T/5 DONALD BALLARD
ASN 33350310
5th Provisional Training Company
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

Re: Acquaintance Check

On October 14, 1943, this Agent interviewed David S. Cannon, Esquire, attorney at law, Bank of America Building, Room 524, 650 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California, regarding the above-named Subject.

Mr. Cannon stated that he had been the attorney of Subject and Subject's mother, Edna W. Ballard, together with twenty-one other defendants in the case of United States of America vs. Subject et al.

Mr. Cannon stated that the case was one of mail fraud against Subject et al, in which the principal defendant was Subject's mother, Edna W. Ballard, and that the only knowledge he had of Subject was through his association with Subject during the course of the trial, and after the date of sentence of Subject.

Mr. Cannon stated that Subject was rather odd, and was one of the most vulgar young men he had ever come into contact with. Whether the Subject was a fool or a man of genius, Mr. Cannon could not say, but as to whether or not Subject was subversive, Mr. Cannon stated that at no time had Subject ever given him any evidence of such. Mr. Cannon felt that Subject was slightly dominated by his mother, Edna W. Ballard.

Mr. Cannon stated that Subject was rather frail; about 5' 9" tall; weighing approximately 125 pounds; light brown hair, and as he recalled was about 23 or 24 years of age.

Mr. Cannon stated that he could give no further information concerning Subject, and was sorry that he had not paid any too much attention to the Subject at the time of the trial as he felt that the Subject's mother, Edna W. Ballard was the most important defendant in the case.

NICHOLAS C. DAZZO
Special Agent CIC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 05-07-2018 BY [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

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b7C

Los Angeles, California
16 October 1943
LA-6528 IX-O/R 17867m

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Subject: T/5 DONALD BALLARD
ASN 38350310
5th Provisional Training Company
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

Re: Interview with Hon. J. F. T. O'Connor, United States District Judge, District of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

On October 14, 1943, this Agent interviewed Judge J. F. T. O'Connor, at his office in the United States Post Office Building at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California, concerning Subject.

Judge O'Connor stated that he was the trial judge in the case of United States vs Subject, et al, the case being one in which the Subject was charged with attempt to defraud by use of government mail.

Judge O'Connor was of the opinion that Subject was completely dominated by his mother whom he described as a woman dressed in the very latest fashion, completely covered with diamonds and furs.

Although the judge stated that Subject was a member of the "I Am Cult," it was his impression that Subject did not care much about this organization but only did what was told him by his mother, mainly because she supplied him with a great deal of money.

The Judge stated that he did not know Subject other than the fact that he had been a witness on the stand in the course of the trial; that he had not known him before, nor had he seen him since the time of sentence, date of sentence having been February 16, 1942.

Judge O'Connor stated that there was no evidence to show that Subject was subversive in any way, or disloyal to the government of the United States.

NICHOLAS C. DAZZO
Special Agent CIC

CONFIDENTIAL (U)

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 05-07-2018 BY [redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

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Los Angeles, California
20 October 1943
LA-6523 IX-O/R 17657m

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Subject: T/5 DONALD BALLARD
ASN 33350310
5th Provisional Training Company
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

Re: Police Check

Basic communication dated 19 July 1943, from OAC of S, G-2, WDC, Presidio of San Francisco, California, in addition to requesting an investigation to determine the discretion, integrity and loyalty of Subject, also requested an investigation to determine whether or not Subject was and is, the one and same person as Donald LaVern Ballard, a sailor, of 766-19th Avenue, San Francisco, California.

Files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation show that Subject was a member of the "I Am Cult"; that he was tried December 2, 1941, together with his mother, Edna Ballard, in the United States District Court in Los Angeles, California, for using mails to defraud and conspiracy. Subject found guilty on three counts and sentenced February 17, 1942, on each count for 30 days, sentence to be concurrent and suspended, and fined a total of $400.00. Subject appealed and a new trial granted.

No record in Office of Naval Intelligence or Los Angeles Police Department regarding Subject.

The records also show that Donald LaVern Ballard, a National Maritime Union Patrolman employed to collect dues, absconded with $122 in $1.00 bills of union funds. James. W. Drake, National Maritime Union Post Agent signed complaint #348093 (See San Pedro Division, Los Angeles, Police Department), against said Donald LaVern Ballard. Drake stated that Donald LaVern Ballard checked out of the Rosslyn Hotel, Los Angeles, California, March 2, 1943, and had not been seen since that time.

NICHOLAS C. PAZZO
Special Agent CIC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 05-07-2018 BY: [redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

b6
b7C

San Francisco, California
26 August 1943
CASE NO: IX-O/R-17867m

68252

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: DONALD LaVERNE BALLARD
766 19th Ave.,
San Francisco, California

RE : Covering Memorandum

Pursuant to copy of Summary of information dated 10 June 1943 from MIS, War Department, Washington, D.C., to the AC of S, G-2, WDC & 4th Army, Presidio of San Francisco, California, requesting investigation of one, DONALD LaVERNE BALLARD, 766 19th Ave., San Francisco, California, to determine if identical to DONALD BALLARD, 515 So. Olive Strset, Los Angeles, California, and by letter dated 19 July 1943 from the AC of S, G-2, WDC & 4th Army, Presidio of San Francisco, California to the OIC, San Francisco Branch Office, G-2, WDC & 4th Army, an investigation was conducted in this area by this Agent.

Investigation reveals that DONALD LaVERN BALLARD, 766 19th Ave., San Francisco, California, is not identical with one DONALD BALLARD, 515 So. Olive Street, Los Angeles, California, according to information set forth on Summary of Information in basic communication.

This Agent suggests that the finger prints as submitted by DONALD BALLARD, 515 So. Olive Street, Los Angeles, ASN 38350310, upon his induction into the Army and those of DONALD LaVERNE BALLARD as indicated on record of arrest received from California State Bureau of Identification be compared for positive identification with those which are on file at the F.B.I. Identification Bureau, Washington, D.C.

The indices of the following law enforcement agencies reveal the following records on DONALD LaVERN BALLARD:

FBI Field Office, San Francisco, California, NR
ONI 12th Naval District, San Francisco, California (See record)
California State Bureau of Identification, Sacramento, Calif. (See record)

CHARLES WEHDT
Agent, OIC

ad

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

File No: IX-0/R-17867m
Subject: Donald La Verne Ballard

AGENT'S NOTE: (continued) 18355

a DONALD La VERA BALLARD whose fingerprint classification is (19) 1 R 0 14
11 W 0 15

It is suggested that this classification be checked against the prints taken by the Army at time of induction of DONALD BALLARD, ASN 33350310, for comparison.

This Agent believes that the Police Record of DONALD LaVERA BALLARD who was 16 years of age in 1930 and DONALD LaVERNE BALLARD of 766-19th Ave., San Francisco, California who is 29 years of age, are the same according to information listed in the "Summary of Information."

CHARLES WENDE
Agent, OIC

ad

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 05-08-2018 BY: [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL (U)

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b7C

San Francisco, California
26 August 1943
CASE NO: IX-O/R-17867m

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

98354

SUBJECT: DONALD LaVERN BALLARD
766 19th Avenue
San Francisco, California

RE : Interview with MRS. RUTH BALLARD
766 19th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

On 30 July 1943, this Agent interviewed Mrs. RUTH BALLARD, ex wife of Subject at 766 19th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

Informant stated that this address is the property of a Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gates. That Subject had never resided at this location but used it for a mailing address.

Informant furnished the following information regarding Subject:

Name: DONALD LaVERNE BALLARD
Age: 29
Birth: 20 January 1914
Mother's and Father's last known address, Denver, Colo.
Education: Has not attended school since 12 years of age.
Occupation: Merchant seaman
Employment: Merchant's Seamans Union
Military Service: Registered for draft in New York City, New York, date unknown.
Informant stated that Subject had resided in Los Angeles at one time, address unknown.
Description: 29 years old; 5'10-11" in height; weight 160-170 #; blue eyes, dark brown hair, fair complexion.

Informant stated that she has not seen Subject for the last seven months. That they have been divorced since 1935.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

This Agent was unable to obtain any definite association between DONALD LaVERN BALLARD of 766-19th Ave., San Francisco, California and a DONALD BALLARD of 515 So. Olive Street, Los Angeles, California, however a return of Police Check from State Bureau of Identification, Sacramento, California, lists a criminal

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I AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
TE 05-08-2018 BY [redacted]

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CONFIDENTIAL (U)

San Francisco, California
26 August 1943
CASE NO: IX-O/R-17867-m

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: DONALD LaVERN BALLARD
766 19th Avenue
San Francisco, California

RE : National Maritime Union
Mr. Eugene Williams, Agent
91 Drumm Street, San Francisco
California

On 23 July 1943 this Agent contacted Mr. WILLIAMS relative to reviewing Subject's application file to ascertain if similar to a DONALD BALLARD, ASN 38350310, 515 So. Olive St., Los Angeles, California.

Informant stated that Subject had been employed temporarily for two days at their 91 Drumm Street office in San Francisco; That there were no records kept on temporary employees and that Subject was under Bond and his complete application is on file at the main office in New York. Further information may be obtained from this source by contacting Mr. HERLEY STONE, National Treasurer, 346-17th Street, New York City, New York.

Informant further stated that Subject, after his two days employment here in San Francisco had transferred to San Pedro and had remained there, working out of the National Maritime offices, 512½ So. Palos Verdes, San Pedro, California, for about two weeks.

Mr. WILLIAMS stated that he recalled Subject by name but that he could not remember the exact dates of Subject's employment with the National Maritime Union in San Francisco.

CHARLES WENDT
Agent, CIC

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 05-08-2018 BY: [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL (U)

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b7C

San Francisco, California
25 August 1943
CASE NO: IX-O/R 17867m

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: DONALD LaVERN BALLARD
766 19th Ave.,
San Francisco, California

RE : Police Check

On 28 July 1943 the files of the FBI Field Office, the ONI 12th Naval District, both of San Francisco, California, and the California State Bureau of Identification at Sacramento, California, were examined with reference to DONALD LaVERN BALLARD, and the following information was revealed:

FBI No record

ONI Files reflected that DONALD LaVERN BALLARD, (Seaman's Identification Z-155373) Was arrested, tried and convicted by the Provost Marshal's Office in Hawaii on charges of sabotage on the SS PONCA CITY at Pearl Harbor 3-25-42. Subject, an A.B. seaman and dock delegate, objected to the size of a hauser placed aboard the vessel by a Navy tug and made an attempt to cut the hauser. When Subject was arrested he endeavored to get the crew to walk off the ship in his behalf. His action delayed convoy sailing for 30 minutes. The Judge sentenced him to one year at labor, stating he was lucky not to get five years. Subject was released two days later at the request of a Merchant Marine Captain to complete his crew. Subject's employment on U.S. vessels was authorized in June, 1942, after he had been cleared by FBI and PMO court in 14ND. Subject stated he sincerely regretted toe episode described above and stated he had learned his lesson. On 3-6-42 James W. DRAKE, National Maritime Union Port Agent, signed a complaint at the San Pedro Division, Los Angeles Police Department, alleging that Subject had absconded with $122 of Union dues. Subject had been employed as National Maritime Union Patrolman, collecting union dues aboard ships entering San Pedro. Subject described as 28 years, 5'9" tall, as of April, 1942. His wife resides at 766 19th Ave., San Francisco, California.

-72

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 100-4519

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| SALT LAKE CITY | 11/16/43 | 10/8,14,18,21, 22,27/43 11/2,3,12/43 | ROBERT E. MASTERS 11 |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Investigation reveals that the above named group which had previously operated at 617 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, has moved from that address and is presently at 121 First Avenue. Attempts made to ascertain names of members and to develop confidential informants within the group. Investigation conducted on RAY KING HUGHES, who is believed to be the leader of the local group, reveals that he has made a contract to purchase the residence at 121 First Avenue for a total cost of $12,000 on a monthly payment of $130. HUGHES advised real estate agent that he expected to make payments through the contributions of people in attendance at the meetings of the organization.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/14/82 BY SP8BD/ky 225,140

\- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent EDWARD P. FERRIS, El Paso, Texas dated 7/16/43
Report of Special Agent A. CECIL DRURY, Salt Lake City, Utah dated 4/15/43

DATE: 5/26/58

DETAILS:

Mrs. GUS P. BAUCHMAN, 629 East South Temple, was reinterviewed by the reporting agent and she stated that ordinarily the meetings are held on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings but that she thought that

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

62-15772-111

28 NOV 30 1943

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

the group had moved from 617 East South Temple. Mrs. BAUCHMAN stated that she knew very little about the group aside from the fact that she had noticed the cars collecting in that vicinity and that her husband had heard the group singing hymns during the course of their various meetings.

The Salt Lake City Retail Creditmen's Bureau records were made available by Miss Marion Briggs and revealed that RAY KING HUGHES on August 15, 1939 resided at 863 South University Avenue, Provo, Utah and prior to that had lived at 18 West First North, Provo, that in 1939 he had been employed by the Forrest Service, Department of Grazing as a purchasing agent but that he also indicated that he had an income from an orchestra. The credit record of subject showed employment at Feltman and Curme and that at the present time the subject indicated that he is employed at the Stewart Novelty Company, Salt Lake City.

Confidential Informant T-1 stated that previously he had noticed three families living in the residence at 617 East South Temple but that recently they had moved and he had information that they were living at 121 First Avenue. Informant T-1 stated that in addition to RAY KING HUGHES and his family there was a Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE HUNTER residing there. He stated further that there was also an old lady living at that address whose name he did not know. Informant T-1 stated that prior to moving to 617 East South Temple HUGHES had lived at 717 East Second South.

Mr. ED F. SCHAUER, manager of Feltman and Curme, stated that RAY KING HUGHES had worked for him afternoons from May, 1942 to January, 1943. He stated that GEORGE HUNTER is HUGHES' son-in-law but that although he was not closely associated with either man, during the time he had been in conversation with them and he had never heard either of them make any statement which could be considered subversive nor had he ever heard either discuss the "I Am " group. Mr. SCHAUER stated that he believes that RAY KING HUGHES is presently employed by the Stewart Novelty Company at the Playmor Amusement Company. Mr. SCHAUER stated that Mrs. EDNA KING, who is a cousin by marriage to RAY KING HUGHES, could possibly furnish further information in regard to the subject. Mr. SCHAUER stated that Mrs. KING is presently employed by the War Manpower Commission as office manager and is perfectly competent and reliable.

Mrs. EDNA KING was interviewed in her office in the Continental Bank Building. RAY KING HUGHES is the son of Mrs. KING'S deceased husband's cousin. She stated, however, that she is quite friendly with RAY KING HUGHES and has visited his home many times. However, Mrs. KING stated that she knows very little about the "I am" religious group

aside from the fact that it is a psuedo-scientific organization and that at times she has gotten into serious arguments with HUGHES because her religious beliefs differ from his. She stated that RAY KING HUGHES has a son, RAY HUGHES, who is presently in the United States Army, and that his son-in-law, GEORGE HUNTER, is also in the Army. Mrs. KING stated that to the best of her knowledge the "I AM" group members are vegetarians and have a belief that a person is effected by his associations and as an example, indicated that the group believed that light rays were very important in a person's life in that if a person wears light colored clothing, he would feel happier than if he wore dark colored clothing. Mrs. KING stated that RAY KING HUGHES has been a member of the group for a number of years and that he apparently got in on it while he was in Los Angeles where he worked for the Douglas Aircraft Corporation. She stated that GEORGE HUNTER has been in the group for a longer period of time and that his home is in southern California.. Mrs. KING stated that RAY KING HUGHES is presently buying the property at 121 First Avenue and although she does not know where he is obtaining the money, she feels confident that he will be able to swing some sort of a deal.

At Local Draft Board Number 14 Miss ALTA S. BUHLER, Clerk, made the file on RAY KING HUGHES available which indicated that he registered while living at 717 East Second South and that he had also been known by the names of RAFAEL HUGHES and KARL KING. Subject, at the time of registration, indicated that he was employed by Smith & Adams, 225 Edison Street, that he was married at Farmington, Utah on February 25, 1922 to his wife LUCILLE A. HUGHES. He indicated that in 1942 he had three children under the age of [redacted] b6 b7C a son, [redacted] born [redacted] a son, [redacted] born [redacted] and a son, [redacted] born [redacted] He also indicated that he had a daughter, [redacted] who was born [redacted] HUGHES indicated that his father, HARRY HUGHES, lives at Spanish Fork, Utah, that his mother, LA RENE KING BLEEKER, resides at Ogden, Utah, his sister, Mrs. J. L. WILDE, resides at Ogden, Utah and his sister, Mrs. HENRY CONRAD, JR., resides at McGill, Nevada. The subject's selective service file further reflects that he is presently employed by the Stewart Novelty Company, 133 East Second South, Salt Lake City.

The records were also made available on GEORGE FRANKLIN HUNTER, HUGHES' son-in-law, and he indicated his mother, Mrs. LEILA HUNTER, resided at 959 West 32nd, Los Angeles. It further reflected that HUNTER enlisted in the reserve corps of the signal corps on November 12, 1942 and was assigned Army Serial Number 19171712.

HUNTER indicated that he had been employed at the Morrison & Merrill Lumber Company and also at Smith & Adams Awning Company, 225 Edison Street.

Mr. HARRY ADAMS, Smith & Adams Awning Company, stated that HUNTER had only worked for about two months and had left because he did not like the work. He stated that HUNTER had worked on a truck, that he knew nothing about him and knew nothing about the organization.

Mrs. WALTER P. WILDING, 1725 East 13th South, who was formerly Mrs. LULABELLE ELDRIDGE and who was formerly the owner of the place at 121 First Avenue, stated that although she has never had personal dealings with RAY KING HUGHES and that the negotiations were handled by Mr. JOHN ALDER of the First Security Bank, Salt Lake City, she knew that HUGHES had purchased the property for $12,000 at $130 per month, which payment is to include taxes. Mrs. WILDING stated that she had returned to the place at one time to give HUGHES keys and at that time she noticed that the room which she had formerly used for a studio was filled with chairs and it seemed to her that HUGHES was planning to run some kind of a school or to give lectures. However, Mrs. WILDING stated that she had no information in regard to the group but that if she had any, she would advise this office.

Mr. JOHN ALDER, First Security Bank, advised that he had conducted the negotiations with RAY KING HUGHES in regard to the purchase of the property and that HUGHES had paid $2,000 down and had made a contract to pay $130.00 per month. Mr. ALDER stated that during the conversation with HUGHES, HUGHES had indicated that certain amounts of this money would come from contributions by the various people in attendance at his meetings. Mr. HUGHES also indicated that he had sold his car in order to make up the $2,000 down payment. Mr. ALDER said that HUGHES was very careful to advise him about all the contributions were voluntary and that they could charge nothing for the attendance at the meetings but that he had received no further information from Mr. HUGHES. Mr. ALDER advised that the only person he knew who was a member of this group was Mrs. ERNEST L. SMITH, 902 East Second South, Salt Lake City, who had discussed the "I Am" group with him in 1940 or 1941 and that at this time she indicated that the "I Am" group had been set up because the revelation was originally intended for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints but because they had departed from the teachings of God, a new group had to be formed and that accordingly a man drinking at a spring in the mountains of California had achieved wonderful powers and consequently had been ordered to form the new group.

Investigation reveals that Mrs. SMITH is the mother of Doctor E. LINWOOD SMITH, whose offices are at 54 East South Temple. A lead is being set out to conduct a neighborhood investigation in regard to Mrs. SMITH

b7D

At the Credit Rating Bureau records made available by Miss MARYAN BRIGGS reflected that there was a report of June, 1931 on ERNEST L. SMITH which indicated that he was retired from the Oregon Shortline Railroad in 1929 and that he had previously been General Manager and that his credit was good for a reasonable amount, that he received a pension and owned no property. A credit report dated January, 1935 on Mrs. HELEN L. SMITH indicates that she resides at 856 East First South, is about 55 years of age and is a widow, further that she has a son living with her, Dr. E. LINWOOD SMITH. No suits, judgments or derogatory information was contained in the file.

RAY KING HUGHES is described as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Age | 41 |
| Date of birth | March 28, 1902 |
| Place of birth | Spanish Fork, Utah |
| Height | 5' 10" |
| Weight | 130 pounds |
| Eyes | brown |
| Hair | bald |
| Complexion | light brown |
| Scars | scar on chin |

- PENDING -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SALT LAKE CITY FIELD DIVISION

AT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Will conduct background investigation in regard to Mrs. ERNEST L. SMITH, 902 East Second South in an attempt to ascertain whether or not she is presently a member of the "I Am" group [redacted] b7D

Will also attempt to ascertain the names of other members of the group.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT T-1

[redacted] b7D

FS-72

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 100-4519

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| SALT LAKE CITY | 11/16/43 | 10/8,14,18,21, 22,27/43 11/2,3,12/43 | ROBERT E. MASTERS 11 |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

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- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent EDWARD P. FERRIS, El Paso, Texas dated 7/16/43
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DETAILS:

Mrs. GUS P. BAUCHMAN, 629 East South Temple, was reinterviewed by the reporting agent and she stated that ordinarily the meetings are held on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings but that she thought that

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES (INH-1)

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5 Bureau
2 El Paso
5 Salt Lake City

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/14/78 BY SAB BTC/ms

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Mrs. EDNA KING was interviewed in her office in the Continental Bank Building. RAY KING HUGHES is the son of Mrs. KING'S deceased husband's cousin. She stated, however, that she is quite friendly with RAY KING HUGHES and has visited his home many times. However, Mrs. KING stated that she knows very little about the "I am" religious group

aside from the fact that it is a psuedo-scientific organization and that at times she has gotten into serious arguments with HUGHES because her religious beliefs differ from his. She stated that RAY KING HUGHES has a son, RAY HUGHES, who is presently in the United States Army, and that his son-in-law, GEORGE HUNTER, is also in the Army. Mrs. KING stated that to the best of her knowledge the "I AM" group members are vegetarians and have a belief that a person is effected by his associations and as an example, indicated that the group believed that light rays were very important in a person's life in that if a person wears light colored clothing, he would feel happier than if he wore dark colored clothing. Mrs. KING stated that RAY KING HUGHES has been a member of the group for a number of years and that he apparently got in on it while he was in Los Angeles where he worked for the Douglas Aircraft Corporation. She stated that GEORGE HUNTER has been in the group for a longer period of time and that his home is in southern California. Mrs. KING stated that RAY KING HUGHES is presently buying the property at 121 First Avenue and although she does not know where he is obtaining the money, she feels confident that he will be able to swing some sort of a deal.

At Local Draft Board Number 14 Miss ALTA S. BUHLER, Clerk, made the file on RAY KING HUGHES available which indicated that he registered while living at 717 East Second South and that he had also been known by the names of RAFAEL HUGHES and KARL KING. Subject, at the time of registration, indicated that he was employed by Smith & Adams, 225 Edison Street, that he was married at Farmington, Utah on February 25, 1922 to his wife LUCILLE A. HUGHES. He indicated that in 1942 he had three children under the age of [redacted] b6 b7C a son, [redacted] born [redacted] a son, [redacted] born [redacted] and a son [redacted] born [redacted] He also indicated that he had a daughter, [redacted] who was born [redacted] HUGHES indicated that his father, HARRY HUGHES, lives at Spanish Fork, Utah, that his mother, LA RENE KING BLEEKER, resides at Ogden, Utah, his sister, Mrs. J. L. WILDE, resides at Ogden, Utah and his sister, Mrs. HENRY CONRAD, JR., resides at McGill, Nevada. The subject's selective service file further reflects that he is presently employed by the Stewart Novelty Company, 133 East Second South, Salt Lake City.

The records were also made available on GEORGE FRANKLIN HUNTER, HUGHES' son-in-law, and he indicated his mother, Mrs. LEILA HUNTER, resided at 959 West 32nd, Los Angeles. It further reflected that HUNTER enlisted in the reserve corps of the signal corps on November 12, 1942 and was assigned Army Serial Number 19171712.

HUNTER indicated that he had been employed at the Morrison & Merrill Lumber Company and also at Smith & Adams Awning Company, 225 Edison Street.

Mr. HARRY ADAMS, Smith & Adams Awning Company, stated that HUNTER had only worked for about two months and had left because he did not like the work. He stated that HUNTER had worked on a truck, that he knew nothing about him and knew nothing about the organization.

Mrs. WALTER P. WILDING, 1725 East 13th South, who was formerly Mrs. LULABELLE ELDRIDGE and who was formerly the owner of the place at 121 First Avenue, stated that although she has never had personal dealings with RAY KING HUGHES and that the negotiations were handled by Mr. JOHN ALDER of the First Security Bank, Salt Lake City, she knew that HUGHES had purchased the property for $12,000 at $130 per month, which payment is to include taxes. Mrs. WILDING stated that she had returned to the place at one time to give HUGHES keys and at that time she noticed that the room which she had formerly used for a studio was filled with chairs and it seemed to her that HUGHES was planning to run some kind of a school or to give lectures. However, Mrs. WILDING stated that she had no information in regard to the group but that if she had any, she would advise this office.

Mr. JOHN ALDER, First Security Bank, advised that he had conducted the negotiations with RAY KING HUGHES in regard to the purchase of the property and that HUGHES had paid $2,000 down and had made a contract to pay $130.00 per month. Mr. ALDER stated that during the conversation with HUGHES, HUGHES had indicated that certain amounts of this money would come from contributions by the various people in attendance at his meetings. Mr. HUGHES also indicated that he had sold his car in order to make up the $2,000 down payment. Mr. ALDER said that HUGHES was very careful to advise him about all the contributions were voluntary and that they could charge nothing for the attendance at the meetings but that he had received no further information from Mr. HUGHES. Mr. ALDER advised that the only person he knew who was a member of this group was Mrs. ERNEST L. SMITH, 902 East Second South, Salt Lake City, who had discussed the "I Am" group with him in 1940 or 1941 and that at this time she indicated that the "I Am" group had been set up because the revelation was originally intended for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints but because they had departed from the teachings of God, a new group had to be formed and that accordingly a man drinking at a spring in the mountains of California had achieved wonderful powers and consequently had been ordered to form the new group.

Investigation reveals that Mrs. SMITH is the mother of Doctor E. LINWOOD SMITH, whose offices are at 54 East South Temple. A lead is being set out to conduct a neighborhood investigation in regard to Mrs. SMITH

b7D

[redacted]

At the Credit Rating Bureau records made available by Miss MARIAN BRIGGS reflected that there was a report of June, 1931 on ERNEST L. SMITH which indicated that he was retired from the Oregon Shortline Railroad in 1929 and that he had previously been General Manager and that his credit was good for a reasonable amount, that he received a pension and owned no property. A credit report dated January, 1935 on Mrs. HELEN L. SMITH indicates that she resides at 856 East First South, is about 55 years of age and is a widow, further that she has a son living with her, Dr. E. LINWOOD SMITH. No suits, judgments or derogatory information was contained in the file.

RAY KING HUGHES is described as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Age | 41 |
| Date of birth | March 28, 1902 |
| Place of birth | Spanish Fork, Utah |
| Height | 5' 10" |
| Weight | 130 pounds |
| Eyes | brown |
| Hair | bald |
| Complexion | light brown |
| Scars | scar on chin |

- PENDING -

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J. EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

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Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

JOC:LA
62-56722

November 27, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSEN

RE: "I AM" CULT
HARRY B. BRESSLER
SEDITION

b7D

[redacted]

It was explained to the informant that it would be impossible for this Bureau to contact [redacted]

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

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DATE 12/14/82 BY SP8 BD/mg

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Memorandum for Mr. Rosen

RECOMMENDATION

It does not appear that a Mail Fraud is involved in this set of facts and it is recommended that this matter be referred to the Sedition Supervisor.

Respectfully,

John D. O'Connell

J. D. O'Connell

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 100-1407

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| DENVER, COLORADO | 1-14-44 | 12/17,22/43 | LEWIS W. DISHONGH ert |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT - A Religious Organization | SECURITY MATTER (C); SEDITION. |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject organization not active in vicinity of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

- R U C -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent DONALD W. GERE, Denver, Colorado, dated 10-18-43.

DETAILS: AT CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Doctor GEORGE D. WHITE, 2519 House Avenue, Pastor of the Baptist Church of Cheyenne, and President of the Cheyenne Ministerial Association, advised that the Subject organization was not active in the State of Wyoming to his knowledge. Doctor WHITE stated that at some time in the past he had heard rumors of such an organization and advised that there might be a few adherent to the cult in this vicinity but that no organized activity existed in the State of Wyoming as far as he has been able to determine.

Reverend C. L. RODDA, Pastor of the Nazarene Church, Cheyenne, Wyoming, residence, 609 East 20th Street, Cheyenne, advised that he has never heard of the Subject organization and does not believe that it is active in the State of Wyoming or anywhere near the vicinity of Cheyenne.

Reverend PAUL L. FERGUSON, Pastor of the Assembly of God Church, residence, 320 West 23rd Street, Cheyenne, Secretary of the Cheyenne Ministerial Association, advised that he had heard of the movement several years ago but that no activity of an organized nature has ever come to his attention.

No record of the Subject organization could be located at the Laramie County Sheriff's Office or the Cheyenne, Wyoming, Police Department.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS

FILE NO. 100-1407

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| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| DENVER, COLORADO | 1-14-44 | 12/17,22/43 | LEWIS W. DISINGH |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT - A Religious Organization | SECURITY MATTER (C); SEDITION. |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject organization not active in vicinity of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

- R U C -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent DONALD W. GERE, Denver, Colorado, dated 10-18-43.

DETAILS: AT CHEYENNE, WYOMING

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No record of the Subject organization could be located at the Laramie County Sheriff's Office or the Cheyenne, Wyoming, Police Department.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS

FILE NO. 100-6973

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| CHICAGO, ILLINOIS | 1-18-44 | 1-15-44 | PHILO I. HALL PIH:mat |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, A Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: PAUL HARTMAN STICKELL is properly registered with Selective Service Board #91, Chicago, Illinois.

RUC

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent JOHN J. TROST, dated 8/9/43 at New Haven, Connecticut.

DETAILS: AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

MISS ESTHER ORMAN, Clerk of Local Board 91, 1547 East 79th St., Chicago, Illinois, furnished the Selective Service record of PAUL HARTMAN STICKELL, 1620 East 84th Place, Chicago, Illinois. This record showed that STICKELL was born December 20, 1889 at Williamson, Pennsylvania and he is registered in the 45-60 group. In his Occupational Questionnaire, STICKELL advised that he is self employed as a preacher, traveling from place to place. No other information of interest to this investigation was set forth in the file.

STICKELL'S description from Selective Service records has been set forth in previous reports.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/14/82 BY SP6 BJ/JP

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS

FILE NO. 100-6973

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| CHICAGO, ILLINOIS | 1-18-44 | 1-15-44 | PHILO I. HALL PIH:mat |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, A Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: PAUL HARTMAN STICKELL is properly registered with Selective Service Board #91, Chicago, Illinois.

RUC

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent JOHN J. TROST, dated 8/9/43 at New Haven, Connecticut.

DETAILS: AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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STICKELL'S description from Selective Service records has been set forth in previous reports.

[illegible] DATE 12/14/42 BY SRB [illegible]

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS — Butte FILE NO. 100-48

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Butte, Montana | 1/20/44 | 10/29,30; 11/1,5,26,28/43; 1/5,6/44. | WILLARD T. LINEHAN FP |

TITLE: "I AM" CULT, a religious organization

CHARACTER OF CASE: INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Investigation at Billings, Mont., disclosed the I AM CULT consists of seven members and meets at 3312 4th Ave. No. twice a week. Informants advise that members of the I AM, all whom are middle aged and who have resided in Billings, Mont., for many years, enjoy good reputations as to character and morals. No evidence of subversive tendency developed.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
RUC
DATE 12/14/82 BY SP5 BTC/MJ

Reference: Report of Special Agent George P. Rhoades, Butte, Montana, October 12, 1943.

Details:

AT BILLINGS, MONTANA

On October 29, 1943, GERALD SMITH, Police Sergeant, Billings, Montana, Police Department, informed after checking the records of the Police Department that Patrolman JAMES HIRST, who is presently a member of the United States Secret Service, failed to make any record of the information obtained by him from Mr. BEN HAGERMAN concerning this religious cult on August 27, 1940. Sergeant SMITH reported that he had no knowledge concerning this organization as it had never come to his attention. On October 30, 1943, Mr. BEN HAGERMAN, operator of a grocery store directly across the street from 3312 4th Avenue North, the home in which the I AM CULT holds their meetings, advised since he had originally furnished information

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"I Am" Cult,
Internal Security - C
Sedition

Jan. 20, 1944

concerning the I AM CULT to Patrolman HIRST and Special Agent W.T. GRAY of this Bureau that he had maintained a close watch on the activities of the I AM CULT. He stated that he had not developed any additional information.

HAGERMAN related that the following individuals were members of the I AM organization, namely, Mr. and Mrs. ROY PATTERSON, 135 Broadwater Street, Mr. PATTERSON being a Certified Public Accountant; Mr. and Mrs. ROSCOE WARD, 220 Locust Avenue, Mr. WARD being Secretary and Credit Manager of the Charboneau Motor Company; Mr. and Mrs. HEWES HARRIS, 1045 N 30th Street, Mr. HARRIS being an osteopath, and Miss PATRICIA BUCHANAN, 911 2nd Street W, Miss BUCHANAN being a music teacher.

Continuing HAGERMAN informed that all of the above persons are middle aged and that they have all resided at Billings, Montana, for many years. He stated he knows the PATTERSONS, the WARDS and Miss BUCHANAN personally, and informed that in his opinion they are entirely 100 per cent loyal Americans, and he stated he felt sure their loyalty was unquestionable, however, he characterized these persons as being religious fanatics who allowed their imaginations to run away with them.

Mr. HAGERMAN further informed that he has talked on many occasions to Mrs. PATTERSON, Mrs. WARD and Miss BUCHANAN in an attempt to discuss the present war in an effort to ascertain their views. He stated in this connection that at no time have any of the three persons mentioned given him any indication that they are not loyal American citizens. Mr. HAGERMAN informed further that he would continue to attempt to obtain additional information.

Chief of Police VAL LECHNER was interviewed concerning the PATTERSONS, the WARDS and Miss BUCHANAN, and Chief LECHNER informed that he had known all of them for a period of over twenty years and stated that in his opinion they are all entirely loyal American citizens. He stated he could not comment on their religious views as he has had no knowledge concerning the I AM organization.

Mr. BEN F. MARTIN of the Martin Lumber Company advised his wife owns the home at 3312 4th Avenue North, which she rents to the I AM CULT. He stated that the monthly rental is paid on various occasions by Mrs. WARD or by Mrs. PATTERSON. According to Mr. MARTIN, he has known Mrs. PATTERSON and Mrs. WARD for a number of years and has engaged them in conversation concerning the present world conflict, and has found them to be entirely

loyal Americans. Mr. MARTIN stated that he has been in the house at 3312 4th Avenue North on many occasions to do repair work, and stated that each time he has made it a point to note what is contained in the home. He stated that outside of a little literature, he has not noted anything of a suspicious nature. According to Mr. MARTIN, this cult has an American flag in the room at all times.

In conclusion Mr. MARTIN informed that he, in the event anything of a suspicious nature comes to his attention, would immediately advise the Butte Office.

REVEREND H.H. FOX, 224 Lewis Avenue, retired Methodist Minister, and REVEREND H. MOORMAN, 4th and Division Streets, Baptist Minister, both churches being in the near proximity of the I AM home, 3312 4th Avenue North, were interviewed concerning instant organization. However, both advised that they knew of the organization but knew very little concerning it.

Mr. WARNAHA of the Warnaha Drugstore, which is located across the street from 3312 4th Avenue North, advised that he has been interested in the activities of the organization for the past two years and stated that inasmuch as he more or less knew the members, it was his opinion that there was no subversive activities connected with the organization. Mr. WARNAHA also informed that all of the members were middle aged and he characterized them as religious fanatics.

The records of the Billings Credit Adjustment Bureau were checked concerning each of the members of the I AM CULT, at which time it was noted that all the members enjoy good credit records.

DENNIS O'BRIEN, Clerk of Local Draft Board No. 2, Billings, Montana, informed he has known all members of the cult for many years and stated that in his opinion all the members were fanatics on religion but were entirely loyal Americans.

Mr. EARL CLINE, United States Commissioner and a prominent member of the Masons Lodge at Billings, Montana, informed that he has known all of the members of the I AM CULT for many years. He stated that at the time he was active Secretary of the Masonic Lodge, approximately two and one-half years ago, that the I AM CULT held several meetings in the Masonic Temple

at Billings. He stated that both PATTERSON, WARD and HARRIS have all resided in the city of Billings for many years and in his opinion all the members are fanatics on religion but are loyal Americans.

Continuing he stated that he has on various occasions discussed the Subject of religion with ROSCOE WARD and that in these discussions WARD has never indicated that his sympathies are anything but American. He stated further that on these occasions WARD has stated to him his religious views and beliefs and that he feels that WARD and other members of the organization have religion deeply rooted in their systems.

In conclusion Mr. CLINE stated he does not know HARRIS very well but stated he would vouch for his Americanism.

On January 6, 1944, Mr. BEN F. MARTIN was recontacted at which time he informed that since last being contacted by Agent, he had paid more attention to the home, however, he informed that he has noticed nothing of a subversive nature at the home at 3312 4th Avenue North.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS

Butte FILE NO. 100-48

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Butte, Montana | 1/20/44 | 10/29/43; 11/1,5,26,28/43; 1/5,6/44. | WILLARD T. LINEHAN FP |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a religious organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Investigation at Billings, Mont., disclosed the I AM CULT consists of seven members and meets at 3312 4th Ave. No. twice a week. Informants advise that members of the I AM, all who are middle aged and who have resided in Billings, Mont., for many years, enjoy good reputations as to character and morals. No evidence of subversive tendency developed.

RUC

Reference: Report of Special Agent George P. Rhoades, Butte, Montana, October 12, 1943.

Details:

AT BILLINGS, MONTANA

On October 29, 1943, GERALD SMITH, Police Sergeant, Billings, Montana, Police Department, informed after checking the records of the Police Department that Patrolman JAMES HIRST, who is presently a member of the United States Secret Service, failed to make any record of the information obtained by him from Mr. BEN HAGERMAN concerning this religious cult on August 27, 1940. Sergeant SMITH reported that he had no knowledge concerning this organization as it had never come to his attention. On October 30, 1943, Mr. BEN HAGERMAN, operator of a grocery store directly across the street from 3312 4th Avenue North, the home in which the I AM CULT holds their meetings, advised since he had originally furnished information

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 100-4519

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH | 1-28-44 | 1-19,20-44 | WAYNE H. SHAW LDM |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY (C) SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Investigation at Salt Lake City, Utah fails to indicate "I AM" CULT in Salt Lake City is engaged in subversive activities or that any seditious statements have been made in any meetings held by organization. Present membership in Salt Lake City is between 15 and 20 and is made up primarily of elderly people and religious fanatics.

-RUC-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent ROBERT E. MASTERS dated November 16, 1943 at Salt Lake City, Utah.

DETAILS: AT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Mrs. LILLIAN CORAY, 910 East Second South, advised that she had known Mrs. ERNEST L. SMITH, who, according reference report, was a member of this organization approximately two years ago for approximately two and one-half years. Mrs. CORAY advised that Mrs. SMITH has at least one son in the United States Navy who enlisted and another son, Dr. LINWOOD SMITH, who is at present employed by the State of Utah, who wants to enlist for service in the Armed Forces. She has discussed the war, politics, etc. on several occasions with Mrs. SMITH and advised that she knows her to be patriotic and in no way against the best interest of this country.

Mrs. ERNEST L. SMITH, 902 East Second South, advised

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: Jay C Newman SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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that she had known both Mr. and Mrs. BALLARD who have been the leaders of the "I AM" CULT for many years. She stated that prior to Mr. BALLARD'S death he had been very fair and sincere in his religious viewpoints and teachings, however, Mrs. SMITH stated that Mrs. BALLARD was not sincere and that she had become "money crazy." Mrs. SMITH stated she became interested in the "I AM" CULT in 1935 and that until approximately one year and a half ago Mrs. SCOTT JONES had been leader of the organization in Salt Lake City. Mrs. JONES, according to Informant, was a very intellectual, fair and high-type person. According to Mrs. SMITH, Mrs. JONES had give up the leadership of this group inasmuch as the organization had become more interested in financial schemes than they were in the basic religious plans of this organization. Mrs. SMITH stated she knew of no members in this organization who are now here who have ever been against the best interest of this country. This group, according to Mrs. SMITH, is one hundred per cent back of the American Constitution; that they always wear the flag over their hearts and advocate that America must lead this world back to civilization.

According to Mrs. SMITH the only things she knew of about the organization that might be considered subversive would be the fact that they believe and prophesy that there will be a world upheaval eventually. Because of this they believe that material things, including money, will be of little value, or at any rate will have little exchange value. It is possible, according to Mrs. SMITH, that someone may have misinterpreted the prophesy above mentioned with regard to statements that War Bonds woul have no value. Mrs. SMITH was impressed with Mrs. BALLARD'S will to obtain finances from the members of the organization and stated that many people left the organization for this reason.

According to Mrs. SMITH, RAY KING HUGHES is now the present leader and that he knew HUGHES to be a religious fanatic but a person who would not be against the best interests of this country.

Mrs. SCOTT JONES, 1740 Hubbard Avenue, advised that she had been leader of the "I AM" CULT for many years, however, she advised that approximately one year and a half ago she had given up the leadership of this group and at that time RAY KING HUGHES had been the local leader.

Mrs. JONES stated that since giving up the leadership of this group she has attended very few meetings inasmuch as she is disliked by the present group. She stated she has never heard any member of this group make any statements against the best interests of this country nor does she know of any principles advocated by the organization which could be considered seditious or in any way against this country.

62-58722-11

She advised that in Salt Lake City, Utah and many other parts of the country this organization is degenerating and becoming very weak because of the present leadership of Mrs. BALLARD. Mrs. JONES mentioned various schemes that had been used by Mrs. BALLARD for obtaining money. She advised that a great many books, pins, rings, vases and other things advocated for various rituals have been sold to various members by Mrs. BALLARD at great profit. She advised that she felt the organization under the leadership of Mrs. BALLARD had become merely a financial venture; that Mrs. BALLARD was no longer interested in the fundamental principles as set out in the original books of the organization. According to Mrs. JONES there are only two things she knows about the organization which might be against the best interests of the country. She advised that she knew the organization was at one time against the practice of innoculations for various diseases and that they prophesied that great changes were about to take place and consequently that money and other material things of the present may have no value in the near future. Mrs. JONES advised that as long as she was leader of the Salt Lake City Group and so far as she knows at the present time there is no one in Salt Lake City who is a member of this group for any purpose other than religious purposes. The group in the main spend their time studying the book "I AM DISCOURSE." According to Mrs. JONES there is nothing in this book that would hurt anyone and nothing in it against the best interest of this country. Mrs. JONES advised she knew of her own knowledge that the group at the present time is not against war so far as fighting to defend the principles of this country is concerned.

Mrs. JONES stated that she knows the organization has no basis for being against buying war bonds except for the fact that they think that the great change which is to take place will make money and other things worhtless. Mrs. JONES advised that she knew the present leader RAY KING HUGHES and that she knew him to be a religious fanatic that was born and raised in Provo, Utah. According to Mrs. JONES he became interested in the "United Order Group" in Salt Lake City, Utah several years back and then became interested in the "I AM" CULT and because of his belief in this organization went to Los Angeles, California to live. Approximately two years ago, at the time Mrs. BALLARD was in Los Angeles and advocated that all followers of the "I AM" CULT leave the coast for inland cities because of the difficulties that were to come up on the coast, HUGHES came back to Salt Lake City. Mrs. JONES advised that inasmuch as she had been disgusted in the organization just prior to this time because of the many requests for money, the organization had discontinued meeting in Salt Lake City.

HUGHES contacted Mrs. JONES upon his return to Salt Lake City, obtained chairs, furniture, articles for the ritual, etc. from Mrs. JONES and started to hold meetings again.

According to Mrs. JONES, HUGHES has a group of approximately fifteen or twenty people who are active in the organization now, as compared with seventy-five, two years ago when she was a member of the organization in Salt Lake City. Mrs. JONES, stated that she is familiar with all of the present members and knows them to be a group of elderly individuals who are religious fanatics. To Mrs. JONES' knowledge none of these individuals could be considered subversive and because of their age and beliefs she advised that none of them could be considered dangerous to the better interests of this country.

Inasmuch as the above information indicates that there is nothing being done by the organization in Salt Lake City which could be considered subversive and since there is nothing to indicate that any seditious statements have been made by any members in this Field Division, this case is being referred upon completion to office of origin.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 100-4519

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH | 1-28-44 | 1-19,20-44 | WAYNE H. SHAW MM |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY (C)<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Investigation at Salt Lake City, Utah fails to indicate "I AM" CULT in Salt Lake City is engaged in subversive activities or that any seditious statements have been made in any meetings held by organization. Present membership in Salt Lake City is between 15 and 20 and is made up primarily of elderly people and religious fanatic.

-RUC-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent ROBERT E. MASTERS dated November 16, 1943 at Salt Lake City, Utah.

DETAILS: AT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Mrs. LILLIAN CORAY, 910 East Second South, advised that she had known Mrs. ERNEST L. SMITH, who, according reference report, was a member of this organization approximately two years ago for approximately two and one-half years. Mrs. CORAY advised that Mrs. SMITH has at least one son in the United States Navy who enlisted and another son, Dr. LINWOOD SMITH, who is at present employed by the State of Utah, who wants to enlist for service in the Armed Forces. She has discussed the war, politics, etc. on several occasions with Mrs. SMITH and advised that she knows her to be patriotic and in no way against the best interest of this country.

Mrs. ERNEST L. SMITH, 902 East Second South, advised

| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

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2 - El Paso
3 - Salt Lake City

12/14/92 BY [illegible]

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE - O - 7-2034

EPB:AJB
62-56722 117

SAC, Houston March 8, 1944

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

"I AM" CULT, A Religious Organization;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C; SEDITION

Reference is made to your letter dated February 21, 1944, captioned "'I Am'; Security Matter," wherein you advised that a book entitled "Special I Am Decrees" contained in the bulky exhibit file of your office would be destroyed unless advice was received to the contrary before March 27, 1944.

This is to advise that an investigation is in progress at the present time for the purpose of determining the current activities of the captioned group. El Paso is the Office of Origin in this investigation. Inasmuch as the Bureau desires to secure all available information relative to the "I Am" Cult, it is desired that the book "Special I Am Decrees" be forwarded to the Bureau.

12/14/82 SPSB

MAR 12 1944 PM

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Houston, Texas
February 21, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: "I AM"
SECURITY MATTER

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to a letter from the Dallas Office to the Houston Office dated August 27, 1940, captioned as above, a copy of which letter was forwarded to the Bureau.

It will be noted in this letter that a book entitled "Special I Am Decrees" was forwarded to the Houston Office.

This book has been maintained in the bulky exhibit file and inasmuch as it is believed that no benefit will be derived from this book, it will be destroyed unless contrary advice is received from the Bureau prior to March 27, 1944.

Very truly yours,

D. K. BROWN
Special Agent in Charge

VMS dfh
100-363

3-8-44 EPB
Let to Houston

RECORDED 62-56722-113
INDEXED F B I
22 FEB 24 1944

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FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Houston, Texas
March 16, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: "I AM" CULT, A Religious Organization;—
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION
Bureau File 62-56722

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter of March 8, 1944.

In compliance, I am enclosing the booklet entitled "Special 'I AM' Decrees."

Very truly yours,

D. K. BROWN
Special Agent in Charge

ENCL BEHIND FILE
1 ENCL
(38)

VMS:ush
100-363
Encl.

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12-14-82 BY SP2 AJM

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62-56722-118
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38 MAR 21 1944

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62-56722-119

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DATE 12/14/92 BY SP6 BT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

66152

| This case originated at EL PASO, TEXAS | | File No: 65-617 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Report made at SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA | Date when made 4-15-44 | Period for which made 2/28;3/10/44 | Report made by EUGENE P. CLARK mes |
| TITLE "I AM" CULT, a Religious Organization | | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION | |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Informant advises "I AM" Movement still active in San Diego. PEARL DIEHL, a former leader, reported to have recently published a book concerned with the movement. Investigation in San Diego indicates that JESSIE WEISEMAN may now be the local leader of the movement. WEISEMAN described as eccentric by her employers.

- P -

REFERENCE: Bureau File #62-56722
Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943
Report of Special Agent EDWARD P. FERRIS, El Paso, Texas, dated July 16, 1943.
Report of Special Agent RALPH V. REED, San Diego, California, dated August 4, 1943.
Report of Special Agent EUGENE P. CLARK, San Diego, California, dated November 12, 1943.

DETAILS: AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

On February 28, 1944, Informant A advised that DOUGLAS K. DE VROSS head of the DE VROSS Publishing Company of Los Angeles, recently advised that

| Approved and forwarded Jonathan Hall SAC | Do Not Write in These Spaces |
|---|---|
| Copies of this report<br>5 - Bureau<br>2 - El Paso<br>2 - Los Angeles (Inf.)<br>2 - San Francisco (Inf.)<br>1 - DIO, 11th N. D.<br>1 - G-2, San Diego<br>2 - San Diego<br>COPY IN FILE | 62-56722-120<br>31 APR 22 1944<br>RECORDED & INDEXED 37<br>EX-41 |

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12-14-78 BY SP5 AJF/KB

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OCT 27 1964 96

51 MAY 2 1944

PEARL DIEHL (phonetic) had recently returned from Washington, D. C., where she had been working in "Communications". (Informant could not advise what was meand by the term "Communications"). DIEHL is reported to have recently published 10,000 copies of a book entitled "I AM, THE DESTINY OF THE UNITED STATES". DIEHL has been barred from meetings of the "I AM" backed by BALLARD due to her activity in writing this book, but has advised that she still believes in the "I AM" movement or similar work and has gone to San Francisco where she intends to start a new movement.

Informant also stated that a man by the name of FERRAR, who was Mrs. BALLARD's radio announcer at one time is now a captain in the Intelligence Division of the U. S. Army and is coming west in the near future and will join PEARL DIEHL in San Francisco. Informant further advised that Mrs. Ballard had threatened to publish the names of some members of the movement who were very prominent in public life if she were convicted at her trial in Los Angeles. This statement concerning Mrs. BALLARD's intention was made by a man in company with his attorney at the time of her trial and was heard by the informant and others at that time.

On March 10, 1944, RAY A. EDWARDS, head of the Personnel Department, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, advised that JESSIE WEISEMAN and HAZEL DAVIS were presently employed by that company, DAVIS in the position of supervisor and WEISEMAN in the Billing Department. EDWARDS also stated that MARY HURLEY, a former employee who was connected with the "I AM" movement, left about three weeks ago and is now believed to be in the State of Colorado.

PHILLIP A. BAILEY, Auditor, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, stated that JESSIE WEISEMAN brought the "I AM" Movement into the company in the first place several years ago and presented it as an idea of advancing religion. She influenced HAZEL DAVIS to adhere to some of the principles of the movement but DAVIS later had some difficulty with her husband over the movement and dropped it and is not now believed to have any connection whatsoever with the movement.

It was stated by the informant that DAVIS and WEISEMAN do not now appear to be on friendly terms and apparently have nothing to do with each other. Mr. BAILEY advised that JESSIE WEISEMAN has had no leave since 1933 which would permit her to go to Colorado and that HAZEL DAVIS had been on sick leave during 1942 and was gone about three and one-half months from the company but he has reason to believe she did not leave San Diego. BAILEY stated that at the outset when he noticed JESSIE WEISEMAN's activities in the company she was warned to desist and advised that such campaigning would not be condoned at the premises of the San Diego Gas and Electric Company.

SD #65-617

66154

BAILEY gave the following information concerning WEISEMAN and DAVIS:

MAXINE DAVIS

| | |
|---|---|
| Address: | 4639 Mississippi |
| Salary: | $165 per month |
| Birthdate: | May 28, 1900 |
| Birthplace: | LaSeur, Minnesota |
| Height: | 5' 6" |
| Weight: | 125 |
| Complexion: | Dark |
| Employed: | May 28, 1926 as PBX operator—still in that position. |

JESSIE WEISEMAN

| | |
|---|---|
| Address: | 2427 5th Avenue, San Diego |
| Salary: | $135 per month |
| Birthdate: | March 19, 1909, New York City |
| Height: | 5' 10" |
| Weight: | 138 |
| Eyes: | Blue |
| Hair: | Blond |
| Employed: | October 7, 1933 to July 7, 1941 as PBX operator and on the latter date transferred to the Billing and Collection office where she is presently working. |

BAILEY stated that Miss WEISEMAN apparently took up the "I AM" movement after she came into the company and that it appears to have made a deep impression upon her, the extent of which is evidenced by the fact that she wears only certain colors presumed to be in harmony with her personality and has the habit of attempting to absorb a great amount of light in order to strengthen her qualities of "radiation".

E. J. WRIGHT, Assistant Superintendent, Collection Department, stated that JESSIE WEISEMAN had recently lost her mother, who was reported to be the leader of the "I AM" movement in San Diego and that Miss WEISEMAN is taking over her mother's work as the local leader. He stated that she had received numerous contributions for the movement at the Gas and Electric Office although she was not permitted to actively engage in any campaigning or soliciting in furtherance of the movement. He further stated that Miss WEISEMAN showed no distress whatsoever in the death of her mother in the belief that her mother was merely departed and that she actually seemed relieved after her mother's death. Mr. WRIGHT also stated that the company is

fully cognizant of the activities of Miss WEISEMAN, although she is considered somewhat "queer" in that she has no close friends in the company, apparently enjoys no social life whatsoever and yet seeks the company and converses easily with the men employees of the company.

A check of the indices of the San Diego Police Department and Sheriff's Office, the files of Confidential Informant [redacted] and [redacted] was made without result. b7D

A check of the files of Confidential Informant [redacted] indicated that REX RAYMOND DAVIS and wife, HAZEL MAE, reside at 4639 Mississippi Street; that DAVIS is a truck driver for the City Street Department and Mrs. DAVIS is employed by the San Diego Gas and Electric Company. No derogatory information is contained in that file.

- P E N D I N G -

SD #65-617

66156

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SAN DIEGO FIELD DIVISION

At San Diego, California, through the medium of informants, will follow the organization and activities of this movement in the San Diego Field Division.

Copies of this report are being designated for the San Francisco and Los Angeles field Divisions in view of the fact that information is contained herein reflecting that some activities of this organization are centered in those field divisions.

SD #65-617

SOURCE OF INFORMATION 66157

SOURCE A [redacted] b7D

66158

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| This case originated at EL PASO, TEXAS | | File No: 65-617 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Report made at SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA | Date when made 4-15-44 | Period for which made 2/28;3/10/44 | Report made by EUGENE P. CLARK mes |
| TITLE "I AM" CULT, a Religious Organization | | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION | |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Informant advises "I AM" Movement still active in San Diego. PEARL DIEHL, a former leader, reported to have recently published a book concerned with the movement. Investigation in San Diego indicates that JESSIE WEISEMAN may now be the local leader of the movement. WEISEMAN described as eccentric by her employers.

- P -

REFERENCE: Bureau File #62-56722
Bureau letter dated June 15, 1943
Report of Special Agent EDWARD P. FERRIS, El Paso, Texas, dated July 16, 1943.
Report of Special Agent RALPH V. REED, San Diego, California, dated August 4, 1943.
Report of Special Agent EUGENE P. CLARK, San Diego, California, dated November 12, 1943.

DETAILS: AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

On February 28, 1944, Informant A advised that DOUGLAS K. DE VROSS head of the DE VROSS Publishing Company of Los Angeles, recently advised that

| Approved and forwarded SAC | Do Not Write in These Spaces |
|---|---|
| Copies of this report<br>5 - Bureau<br>2 - El Paso<br>2 - Los Angeles (Infl)<br>2 - San Francisco (Infl)<br>1 - DIO, 11th N. D.<br>1 - G-2, San Diego<br>2 - San Diego | |

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66144

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This Case Originated at EL PASO, TEXAS — File No. 100-1541

| Report Made at | Date When Made | Period for Which Made | Report Made By |
|---|---|---|---|
| EL PASO, TEXAS | 5-16-44 | 9-13-43; 4-3-44 | CHARLES C. SPANN ge |

| Title | Character of Case |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Cult holding regular meetings, Santa Fe, N. M. Informants report no evidence group engaged in anto-American activities. Information as to future plans of group set out.

-P-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent EDWARD P. FERRIS dated at El Paso, Texas, July 16, 1943

DETAILS: AT SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Confidential Informant T-1 advised that from the period of September 13, 1943 to date the "I AM" group have held meetings regularly and at various times the Cult leaders have been in Santa Fe conducting these meetings.

Mrs. BALLARD, Cult leader, was in Santa Fe in the latter part of October, 1943 and conducted several meetings at that time. The Santa Fe group is presently under the leadership of PAUL SPICKLE, who has been remaining in Santa Fe to run the schools. According to T-1's

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62-56722-121 EX-16

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19 MAY 22 1944

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OCT 27 1964 96

information, MRS. BALLARD conducted an extensive school in Denver and then proceeded to Chicago for a seven-weeks class, running through Christmas and January of 1944. T-1 advised that MRS. BALLARD has manifested plans for acquiring some property in the mountains near Santa Fe, New Mexico and there, building quarters where schools for the "IM AM " youth may be held in the future . These plans are still pending and no definite action has been taken.

According to T-1, the "I AM"youth have recently begun publication of a pamphlet called "I AM ASCENDED MASTER YOUTH IN ACTION" which is published by Miracles, Incorporated, Denver, Colorado; further, that the "I AM" youth have held meetings at the Wild Bason Lodge between Denver and Estes Park, Colorado. T-1 states that the youth movement includes youth up to and including thirty years of age.

T-1 has been advised that the membership in Santa Fe, New Mexico remains at approximately five hundred individuals. T-1 has received no information indicating that the group in Santa Fe have engaged in any activities which might be termed anti-American, or that MRS. BALLARD has made any statements to the group which could be termed un-American.

By letter dated October 6, 1943, the Chicago Office advised that they had received information from a complainant to the effect that the "I AM" group were supposed to achieve their purpose in obtaining members by giving drugs to prospective members. This information was discussed with Confidential Informant T-2, who stated that she had never heard of the "I AM" group engaging in such activity, but stated that she had heard MRS. BALLARD instruct the members not to eat in restaurants as the food was drugged. T-2 had no further information concerning this matter. T-2 is in constant contact with members of the "I AM" cult and advised she had received no information indicating that that group is presently engaged in anti-American activities or that MRS. BALLARD has made statements indicating anti-American sympathies.

P E N D I N G

EP #100-1541

66146

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE EL PASO FIELD DIVISION

AT SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Will maintain contact with confidential informants T-1 and T-2.

One copy of this report is being designated for each of the various Field Divisions who have previous reports in this case.

66147

EP #100-1541

## CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT T-1: [redacted] b7D

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT T-2: [redacted]

66148

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This Case Originated at EL PASO, TEXAS File No. 100-1541

| Report Made at | Date When Made | Period for Which Made | Report Made By |
|---|---|---|---|
| EL PASO, TEXAS | 5-16-44 | 9-13-43; 4-3-44 | CHARLES C. SPANN ge |

| Title | Character of Case |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Cult holding regular meetings, Santa Fe, N. M. Informants report no evidence group engaged in anto-American activities. Information as to future plans of group set out.

-P-

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| Approved and Forwarded | Special Agent in Charge |
|---|---|
| | |

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1 Denver 1 Oklahoma City
1 Los Angeles 2 El Paso
1 New Haven 1 Philadelphia
1 Phoenix 1 G-2 Dallas
1 Portland 1 ONI, Tucson

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 9/14/82 BY SP2 BTD/ms

66150

EP #100-1541

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE EL PASO FIELD DIVISION

AT SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Will maintain contact with confidential informants T-1 and T-2.

One copy of this report is being designated for each of the various Field Divisions who have previous reports in this case.

66151

EP #100-1541

## CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT T-1: [redacted] b7D

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT T-2: [redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Huntington, West Virginia

May 25, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: DONADD BALLARD, Air Corps
Cadet, Serial #38350310,
EDNA M. BALLARD
"I AM" CULT, Religious Organization
INTERNAL SECURITY * C
SEDITION

DATE 12/14/82 BY [illegible]

Dear Sir:

This office received information from Confidential Source 1 that on April 16, 1944 DONALD BALLARD, room 606, West Virginian Hotel, Bluefield, West Virginia, [redacted] b7D

[redacted]

BALLARD then [redacted]

[redacted]

BALLARD then [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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b7D

This office was further advised that BALLARD registered at the West Virginian Hotel, room 606, on the night of April 15, 1944; that he is an Air Corps Cadet stationed at Concord State Teachers College, Athens, West Virginia. Since that date it is our information that he has been transferred to Camp Pickett, Virginia to the Infantry Division.

At the time this information was furnished to this office an inquiry was made at the Concord State Teachers College, Athens, West Virginia, to determine if BALLARD actually was an Air Corps Cadet, at which time it was learned that he had been transferred to Camp Pickett, Virginia. BALLARD'S mother, according to information received at the college, is EDNA M. BALLARD, 206 McKenzie, Santa Fe, New Mexico. The person to be notified in case of an emergency is Miss GENEVIEVE CHAVEZ, 130 E. Buena Vista, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Information was furnished this office by Confidential Source #2 to the effect that BALLARD usually leaves camp every weekend in order to make long distance calls in regard to a case in the U. S. Supreme Court in which his mother is a defendant; further, that he is quite outspoken in his hostility toward the United States Army and the country as a whole, indicating that he did not want to be in the army. Further statements made by him indicated that he wished to go to Mexico to take out citizenship papers.

It will be noted that in one instance BALLARD stated that the spy trials in which he was interested were in Chicago and that his father was being tried. However, in the second instance he mentions that his reason for wanting the weekend pass was in order to make telephone calls concerning a case in which his mother was a defendant which was pending before the Supreme Court. No information is available in this office as to the father's name.

The Denver Office has advised that they have no record on GENEVIEVE CHAVEZ. The Washington Field Office has informed that they have no information concerning Dr. and Mrs. BOND BREFFLER, nor do they have anything concerning REBECCA HAGGERS, GENEVIEVE CHAVEZ, or EDNA M. BALLARD.

The Chicago office has informed that their files contained information concerning EDNA M. BALLARD who was a Subject in a file entitled "I AM CULT, A Religious Organization, INTERNAL SECURITY-C, SEDITION," and that El Paso is the Office of Origin.

No investigation is being made or requested by this office, and the above information is being forwarded to the Bureau with the thought in mind that the Bureau may wish to furnish it to the headquarters of G-2 since BALLARD is apparently in the Army under their jurisdiction.

Very truly yours,

J. L. Dalton, R

J. L. DALTON
Special Agent in Charge

JLD:HH
65-0

cc - SAC, El Paso

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES

Confidential Source #1 is [redacted] b7D

Confidential Source #2 is [redacted]

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56722 -122
30-44

RECORDED

CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Date: 12/14/82 SPSBTD/mg

To: Assistant Chief of Staff
G-2, War Department
Washington, D. C. Attention: Colonel L. R. Forney

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: DONALD BALLARD
"I AM" CULT, Religious Organization
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION

1r copy prep ACS E 9/21/66 PDP:vr

There is set forth below information received by the Bureau's Huntington, West Virginia Office from confidential sources concerning Donald Ballard, who is stated to be in the United States Army. Ballard, while occupying room 606, West Virginian Hotel, Bluefield, West Virginia on April 16, 1944, [redacted] b7D

[redacted]

[redacted]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A.
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffe
Mr. Nav
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Mich
Mr. Rose
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Carson
Mr. Nendon
Mr. Rumford
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn Tam
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

[redacted]

b7D

Inquiry by the Bureau's Huntington Office reflected that Ballard was, at the time of the above mentioned telephone conversations, an Air Corps Cadet, stationed at Concord State Teachers College, Athens, West Virginia, but that he had subsequently been transferred to Camp Pickett, Virginia to the Infantry Division. Ballard's serial number was ascertained to be 36350310.

From a different confidential source information was received by the Huntington Office to the effect that Ballard usually left the post while stationed at Athens every weekend in order to make long distance calls in regard to a case in the United States Supreme Court in which his mother was a defendant; further that Ballard was outspoken in his hostility toward the United States Army and the country as a whole, indicating that he did not want to be in the army. This same source of information advised that further statements made by Ballard indicated that he wished to go to Mexico to take out citizenship papers.

For your further information relative to Donald Ballard, I would like to advise that he and his mother, Edna W. Ballard, have been the leading figures in the "I Am" organization, which is a religious cult with headquarters presently located at Santa Fe, New Mexico since the death of his father, Guy W. Ballard, at Los Angeles, California on December 29, 1939. This organization was investigated by the Post Office Department for violation of the Mail Fraud Statutes, and after a trial on mail fraud charges on February 17, 1942 Mrs. Ballard was given a suspended sentence of one year, fined eight-thousand dollars and placed on probation for one year, while her son, Donald, on the same day was given a one year suspended sentence, fined four-hundred dollars and placed on probation for one year. Previous to this conviction the headquarters of the "I Am" cult had been in Los Angeles, California. Available information indicated that the "I Am" cult has established local branches in many cities throughout the United States and has a considerable following.

The above data is being furnished for your information and any action you may deem proper.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Ennford
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

FBI

62-56722-123

CHANGED TO

62-76313-2

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/14/92 BY SP3 BD

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
June 28, 1944

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

RCH:DW

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

Re: "I Am"

As a matter of record Mr. Roy Emery connected with the National Park Service telephoned on June 26, indicating that he was personally acquainted with you and was very well acquainted with Mr. Hillory Tolson. Evidently Mr. Emery is quite well to do and owns the Stanley Hotel at Estes Park, Colorado. He stated that representatives of the religious cult "I Am" had recently contacted him negotiating to buy the Stanley Hotel to operate for the cult. He had received information from the hotel manager that this was a crackpot outfit who were against the war and claimed that it was caused by the Krupps, the du Ponts and similar people. Mr. Emery requested confidential information as to whether the outfit was subversive. He stated that apparently they had some money since he was asking $350,000 for the hotel. Mr. Emery was acquainted with the fact that Mrs. Ballard and other representatives of the group had been indicted and convicted for mail fraud activities at Los Angeles and otherwise seemed to have a pretty good idea of the background of this group.

I told Mr. Emery that it was impossible for me to recommend one way or the other as to what negotiations he should have. His principal concern was that he did not want to sell his property even at a personal benefit if these people would be a discredit to the community. I told him that insofar as I knew the group did not have foreign backing and was an allegedly religious cult although allegations had been made from time to time that it was principally operated for the personal benefit of some of those connected with it. Mr. Emery stated that if the group did purchase the Stanley Hotel he would let me personally know the details of the negotiations. Mr. Emery seemed to be a very substantial individual.

RECORDED 162-56722-124
F
29 JUN 29 1944

Respectfully,

Robert C. Hendon

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FIVE EPB

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

59 JUL 10 1944

FD-72

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS

FILE No. 100-5694

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. | 8/17/44 | 9/11/43; 7/26,27/44 8/5/44 | WALTER WILLIAM HORN lew |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

VIRGIL BROWN and Mrs. LORETTA SELF, leader of East Bay and San Francisco Headquarters of the "I Am" Movement interviewed. No reports concerning subversive teaching or activities of these groups have been received in the last year.

-R.U.C.-

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/14/82 BY SP5 BTA/mk

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent LAMONT LUZERNE THOMPSON, San Francisco, Calif., dated 9/20/43.

DETAILS: AT OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent LAMONT L. THOMPSON:

The East Bay Headquarters for this movement is located at 3255 Grand Avenue, Oakland, Telephone No. HIghgate 1008. Mr. and Mrs. VIRGIL L. BROWN, 353 Grand Avenue, Oakland, California, are the organizers for the movement.

On September 11, 1943, BROWN was interviewed under pretext at the "Sanctuary" at 3244 Grand Avenue. BROWN appeared to be a high pressure salesman of questionable mental stability. He stated that he is a Pullman conducter and is in Oakland only two or three days a week.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: N. J. L. Pieper, Special Agent in Charge 1685.

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EX-22

130

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The "Sanctuary" is a fantastic place. Certain colors have deep spiritual and religious significance for the "Cult" and, therefore, the interior decoration scheme is almost unbelievable. For example, the floors are eggshell blue, all upholstery is gold in color. The pictures on the wall are predominantly purple or orchid. There is some highly significant reason for each fixture in the building. The chapel in the sanctuary impressed Agent THOMPSON as having been planned for purposes of hypnotism. To the right of the rostrum is a large piece of framed purple glass, and when the electricity is turned on rays of light play on this prop and the effect is that of a purple flame about a yard high and 18 inches wide. To the left of the rostrum is a frame the same size on which is painted the diagramized symbolism of the "I Am". This also has a wavering light shimmering on it. With the use of such props it seems that mass hypnotism might easily be induced, particularly in view of the selling methods used by the two BROWNs.

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

The San Francisco Headquarters of the "I Am" Movement is located at 1337 Sutter Street, Telephone TUxedo 0668. The leader of the movement is Mrs. LORETTA SELF. Mrs. SELF was interviewed under pretext by the writer and went into great details, giving the background and beliefs of the "Cult." She stated that they symbolized the world as a human body with India as the head and America as the heart of this body. Hence, in order to keep the world healthy and functioning, it is necessary that America be kept healthy, both physically and spiritually. She added that the "Cult" was free of any political ties, and that they were strongly opposed to Facism, Socialism and Communism. She explained that her concept of Communism was division of property and wealth by the State, and the control of same being held by the Government. Mrs. SELF stated that the movement believes that an individual is entitled to "whatever fruits might result from the exhaustion of their physical energies."

In answer to a query by the writer, relative to the "Cult's" stand on the war and Selective Service, Mrs. SELF replied that the "I Am" Cult's stand was a "win the war organization" and that Mrs. BALLARD, one of the founders of the "Cult" had a son presently serving in the United States Army. She said that the movement was in favor of a victorious America in the present conflict, because only by this means could the world survive.

Confidential Informant [redacted] was contacted in an effort to ascertain the address of Mrs. LORETTA SELF. He stated that the telephone in the headquarters of the "I Am" Cult was listed to Mrs. b7D

IDA INGRAHAM, who gave her title as reading room superintendent, and that there is no other record of a telephone for Mrs. INGRAHAM or for Mrs. L. SELF.

The San Francisco Telephone Directory presently lists LORETTA M. SELF residing at 390 Liberty Street, San Francisco.

The San Francisco files contains a communication regarding the Cult's "I Am" activities of an Australian by the name of COLIN, 230 California Street. A check of the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Ltd., 230 California Street, San Francisco, produced no information. Mr. CASEY of this address stated that most Australian and New Zealand seamen use 230 California Street as their United States address. In this, COLIN does not seem to be greatly interested in the movement.

A review of the files in the San Francisco Field Division reflects that since the writing of the referenced report, only one non-specific and anonymous complaint has been received in this office in regard to subject organization. This complaint alleges that a Mrs. BLONDER, 295 Eddy Street, San Francisco, is active in "I Am".

Inasmuch as there is no evidence of either subversive activities or teaching of the "I Am " cult, in this field division, this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin, subject to being reopened should information reach this office which would warrant further investigation.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

FD-72

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS

FILE No. 100-5694

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| SAN FRANCISCO,CAL. | 8/17/44 | 9/11/43; 7/26,27/44 8/5/44 | WALTER WILLIAM HORN lew |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

VIRGIL BROWN and Mrs. LORETTA SELF, leader of East Bay and San Francisco Headquarters of the "I Am" Movement interviewed. No reports concerning subversive teaching or activities of these groups have been received in the last year.

-R.U.C.-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent LAMONT LUZERNE THOMPSON, San Francisco, Calif., dated 9/20/43.

DETAILS: AT OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent LAMONT L. THOMPSON:

The East Bay Headquarters for this movement is located at 3255 Grand Avenue, Oakland, Telephone No. HIghgate 1008. Mr. and Mrs. VIRGIL L. BROWN, 353 Grand Avenue, Oakland, California, are the organizers for the movement.

On September 11, 1943, BROWN was interviewed under pretext at the "Sanctuary" at 3244 Grand Avenue. BROWN appeared to be a high pressure salesman of questionable mental stability. He stated that he is a Pullman conducter and is in Oakland only two or three days a week.

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be answered.

I don't know whether you have heard or not, but Mrs. Ballard started a class in Chicago on Thanksgiving Day which was to continue until January 15th - the Seven Sacred Weeks. When that time came it was announced that it would continue indefinitely, and recently the news came that it would "possibly" continue until Easter. They are having two meetings a day all that time. How I should love to be there!

The Denver Class was very lovely. I never saw a more beautiful stage -- all white -- and much white was worn during the entire class. "Mamma" blessed personally every one attending the class (except those who had received the blessing in the Sante Fe Class). It took her hours every day and almost a week. Bless that precious one for that service.

Oh yes, in the Chicago Class, Saint German gave a dictation and Daddy gave two dictations - through Mamma - just exactly as they came through Mr. Ballard - by flashing words of Light before ~~them~~ her.

Page Stapler

62-56722-126

SURE

J. E. Hoover,
Director Federal Bureau
I read in recent issue S.E.
your article about Nazis in
None of them can compare
with Mrs. Edna Ballard—
of AM. Leader, now in
Chicago — "I AM
Enclosed
of her teachings
victims are completely
ruled by her, and one
just returned from Texas
said she is still mopping
up" money.
Can you not
hold of this
women?
She is now in Chi.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

MRS. EDNA BALLARD

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EX-72

FBI

53 SEP 12 1944

We have just finished a 22-
day class here in Santa Fe - people
from all over the country including
Florida - Tampa, Miami + Jacksonville
folks. We had a most miraculous
class. The decrees we gave in
the afternoon classes were many
times answered before the night
class began. If you knew the
pattern of destruction some of our
"Trustees" are forming your hair
would stand straight up. The
so-called "ZOOT-SUITERS" who have
caused riot + murder in several

of our big cities are all imported gangs of criminals (Negroes) from the Bahama Islands - off the Fla. coast. They are also letting the same kind of criminals come there! the mexican border on the West coast ~~has~~ Brownsville has had quite a few killings and the hospitals are full. The "Zooters" attack in big gangs and take on one or two innocent passers-by and rob and beat them unmercifully. Here is the main idea of the whole setup - There are those in High official places who ambition it is to declare "Martial Law" through-out the U.S.A. and they plan to do it through these riots + outbreaks. Once Martial Law is declared you will then experience and know things that

62-56922-126

You did not think were possible to take place in america. We

(3)

Mr. Ballard told us some of the [illegible] the War Beasts + Tax Beast are out to do, and believe me it will make your hair stand. To Reduce the american people to utter poverty and absolute distress - to take all personal property and completely control all food is just a small part of the scheme. millions of our boys are going across (foreign lands) and millions of the lowest type aliens coming in to take their place. ~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS

FILE NO. 65-617

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| San Diego, California | 9/28/44 | 6/15/;9/21/44 | A. GLENN MORTON, JR. hhw |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Informant advises that there is very little activity on the part of the "I AM" Movement in San Diego at the present time. JESSIE WEISEMAN reported to be local leader of movement.

- RUC -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/14/82 BY SP6 BTD/mg

Reference: Bureau File #62-56722.
Report of Special Agent Eugene P. Clark, San Diego, California, April 15, 1944.
Report of Special Agent Charles C. Spann, El Paso, Texas, May 16, 1944.

Details: On June 15, 1944, Special Agent Lloyd F. Clay interviewed Source A who stated that there was very little activity on the part of the "I AM" Movement in San Diego at the present time. This informant stated, however, that it was found that the organization is still present and that some activity might be taken on their part in the future. Source A further stated that the organization has not recently been active in Laguna Beach, California.

On September 21, 1944, Source A advised that JESSIE WEISEMAN continued to head the "I AM" Movement in San Diego but that the organization had been only moderately active in San Diego and Laguna Beach, California in recent months.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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SD 65-617

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Source A [redacted] b7D

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO, TEXAS FILE NO. 65-617

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| San Diego, California | 9/23/44 | 6/15/44-9/21/44 | A. [redacted], JR. Khw |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>[redacted] |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Informant advises that there is very little activity on the part of the "I AM" Movement in San Diego at the present time. [redacted] reported to be local leader of movement.

- RUC -

Reference: Bureau File 62-56722.
Report of Special Agent Eugene P. Clark, San Diego, California, April 15, 1944.
Report of Special Agent Charles C. Spann, El Paso, Texas, May 16, 1944.

Details: On June 15, 1944, Special Agent Lloyd F. Clay interviewed Source A who stated that there was very little activity on the part of the "I AM" Movement in San Diego at the present time. This informant stated, however, that it was found that the organization is still present and that some activity might be taken on their part in the future. Source A further stated that the organization has not recently been active in Laguna Beach, California.

On September 21, 1944, Source A advised that [redacted] continued to head the "I AM" Movement in San Diego but that the organization had been only moderately active in San Diego and Laguna Beach, California in recent months.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO

EP FILE NO. 100-1541

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| EL PASO | 10/23/44 | 5/16 to 10/16/44 | CHARLES C. SPANN PM |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Investigation in El Paso District fails to reflect "I AM" Cult engaged in subversive activities.

- C -

REFERENCE: Bureau file 62-56722
Report of Special Agent CHARLES C. SPANN at El Paso dated 5/16/44

DETAILS: Contact with Sources of Information T-1 and T-2, Santa Fe, New Mexico, fails to reflect that the "I AM" Cult is engaged presently in activities which might be termed subversive, or that any of the leaders of the Cult have made statements indicating un-American tendencies or have engaged in anti-American activities.

In view of the fact that the investigation to date of this organization fails to reflect specific information indicating this group teaches doctrines which might be termed subversive, and in view of the fact that the leaders of the group have not been reported as having made anti-American statements, this investigation is being closed upon the authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

A copy of this report is being designated to each of the Field Divisions mentioned in view of the fact that they have conducted previous investigations in this case.

- C L O S E D -

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

T-1 [redacted] b7D

T-2 [redacted]

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT EL PASO

EP FILE NO. 100-1541

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| EL PASO | 10/23/44 | 5/16 to 10/16/44 | CHARLES C. SPANN PM |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| "I AM" CULT, a Religious Organization | INTERNAL SECURITY - C<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Investigation in El Paso District fails to reflect "I AM" Cult engaged in subversive activities.

- C -

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Report of Special Agent CHARLES C. SPANN at El Paso dated 5/16/44

DETAILS: Contact with Sources of Information T-1 and T-2, Santa Fe, New Mexico, fails to reflect that the "I AM" Cult is engaged presently in activities which might be termed subversive, or that any of the leaders of the Cult have made statements indicating un-American tendencies or have engaged in anti-American activities.

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DATE 12/14/82 BY SP8 BE/mg

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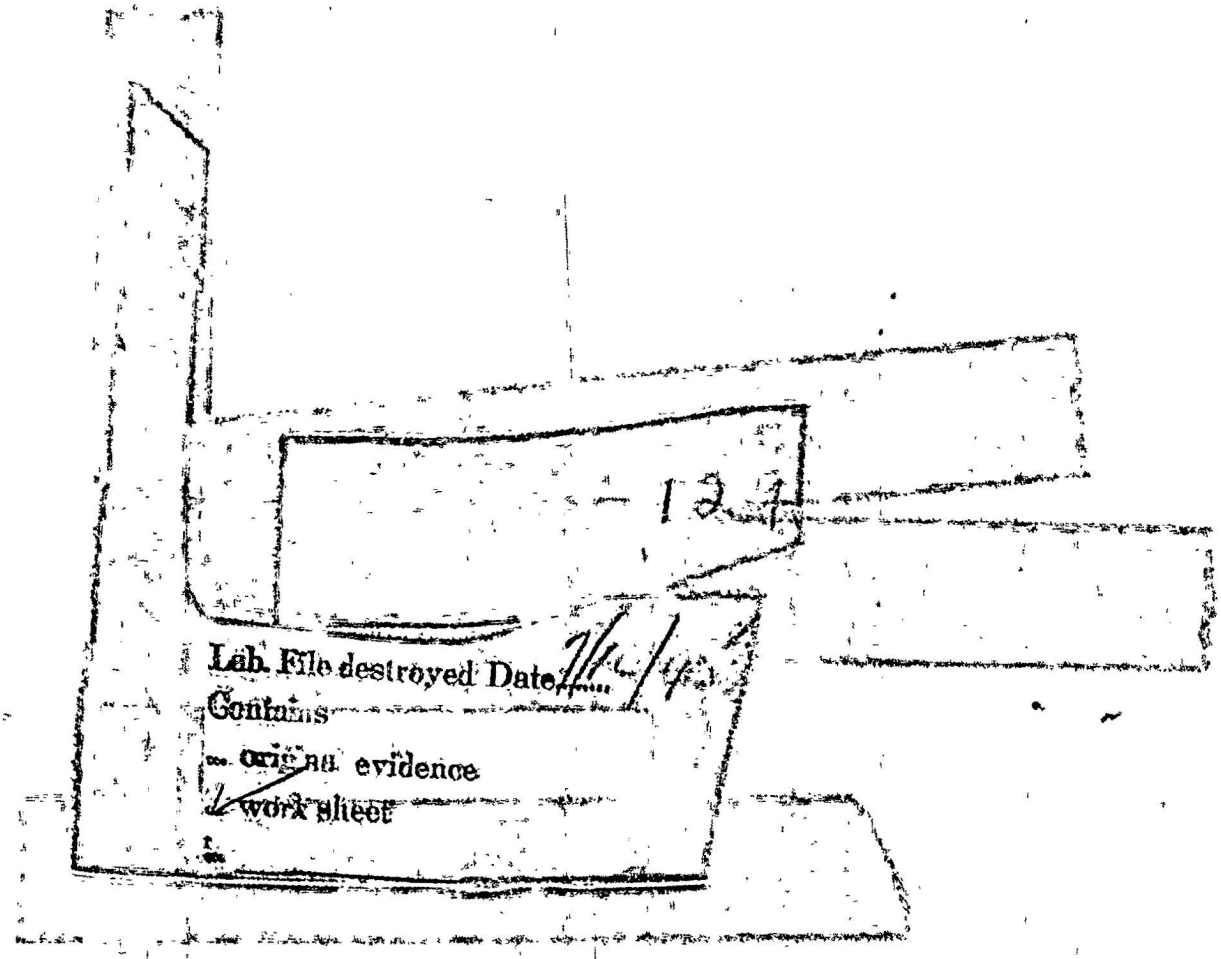


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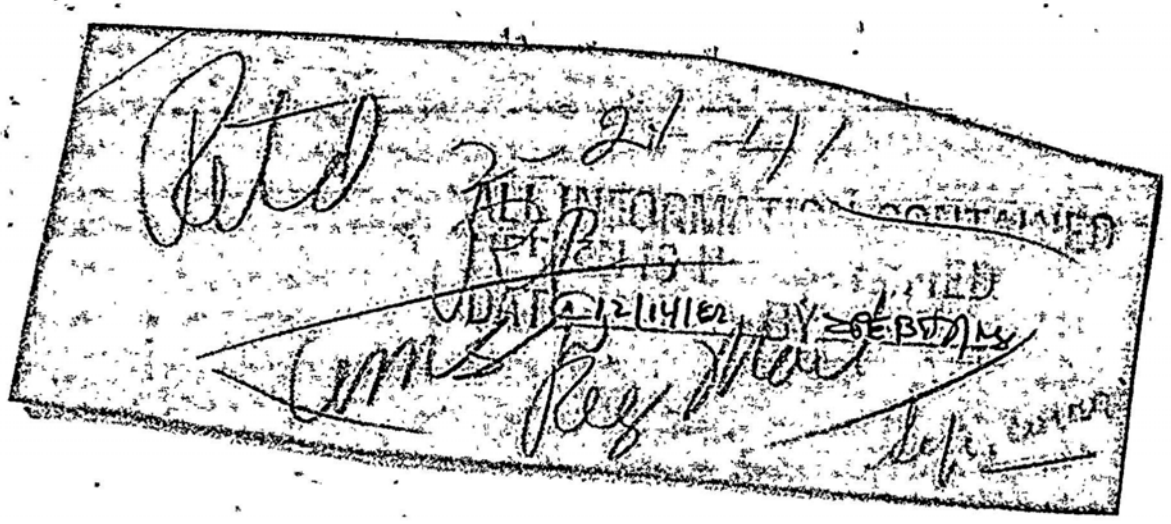

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

EXPEDITE

Re: EDNA F. BALLARD, W/AS ETAL
MAIL FRAUD

Lab. # 42593
File # 62-56722-49

Examination requested by: Los Angeles

Date of reference communication: Let. 2-13-41

Date blocked: 2-15-41 mtg

Examination requested: Document

Result of examination:

Examination by:

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DATE 12/14/82 BY SP8 BTA/MJ

Specimens submitted for examination

Defendants' exhibit number 32, consisting of six airmail envelopes addressed to W/I "Philosophers Rock" all postmarked at Mount Shasta, California on the following dates:

Q 1 September 1, 1930
Q 2 October 24, 1930, addressed in handwriting
Q 3 October 24, 1930, addressed in typewriting
Q 4 September 5, 1930
Q 5 October 30, 1930
Q 6 October 28, 1930

Defendants's exhibit number 33, consisting of:

Q 7 Letter dated "Sat. 1 P.M. 5/3/30, beginning "Yours of the 30...."
Q 8 Second sheet of letter beginning "are being taken..."
Q 9 Letter dated "8:30 A.M. 8/5/30" beginning "My Sweet White Dove..."
Q 10 Second sheet of letter beginning "I have to do is to go..."
Q 11 Letter dated "Mon. 10:30, 8/11/30" beginning "My Sweet White Dove, - Your...."
Q 12 Second sheet of letter, second line beginning "in Oregon & Washington..."
Q 13 Typewritten letter, first page of message beginning "How wonderfully I/C blessed.
Q 14 Second sheet of letter beginning "Yes, I will be careful of the..."
Q 15 Typewritten letter, message beginning "Yours of the 27...."
Q 16 Typewritten letter, message beginning "I have been held so steady at the..."

Government exhibit number 110, consisting of:
K 1 Letter dated February 4, 1935, first page bearing message beginning "Your lovely letter received...."; second sheet beginning "Messengers unknowingly begin to look...." This letter was written by Guy W. Ballard.

Government exhibit number 84, consisting of:
K 2 Letter dated March 13, 1935, first page bearing message beginning "Your lovely letter of the 10th..."; second sheet beginning "Yes, I did ask you..."; third sheet beginning "to the Printers Friday the..."

NOTE: In case it is necessary to un-staple any of these exhibits, it is requested that each exhibit be stapled together again in the same order as received, and if possible, stapled through the same holes.

RETURN above specimens to Los Angeles so that they can be delivered to the court in Los Angeles on or before MARCH 5, 1941.
RETURN the specimens via AIRMAIL, SPECIAL DELIVERY, REGISTERED MAIL.

Peter Beattie
44 Salem St.
Andover, Mass.
August 21, 1946

Mr. John E. Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I am interested in writing an article or series of articles, on the "I AM" religious sect, of which you have probably heard. This organization, or it's leader, Mrs. G. W. Ballard, was charged and I believe, convicted of using the mails to defraud. If my memory serves me correctly, this took place between 1942 and 1945. If the details of this case are available to the public, could you furnish me with them, or tell me where I might obtain them?

Sincerely yours,

Peter Beattie

PETER BEATTIE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/14/82 BY SP8BJ/mg

RECORDED & INDEXED 67
62-56722-130
7 AUG 23 1946
FBI
EX-62

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RECORDED 62-56722-130

August 30, 1946

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/14/82 BY SP3 BEC/lg

Mr. Peter Beattie
44 Salem Street
Andover, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Beattie:

Your communication of August 21, 1946, has been received. In view of a policy of long standing, which was originally promulgated by the Attorney General, information in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is confidential and cannot be devulged to other than authorized sources without the expressed permission of the Attorney General.

In view of this policy, I will be unable to make available the information you desire.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

JEM:aop

56 SEP 5 - 1946

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Carson
Egan
Gurnea
Hendon
Pennington
Quinn Tamm
Mease
Miss Gandy

June 13, 1947

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/14/82 BY SP6 BTC/mg

Honorable James P. Kem
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

EX-4 RECORDED 62-31722-131

My dear Senator:

Your letter dated June 9, 1947, has been received and I wish to advise that the records of this Bureau do not reflect whether meetings of the "I Am" Movement are presently held in Kansas City.

The following background information, however, may be of interest to you:

The "I Am" Movement was originally conducted as a partnership by Guy W. Ballard and Edna Ballard and was incorporated, March 24, 1933, as the Saint Germain Foundation in the state of Illinois. The Ballards and one Harry Rogers were the officers and directors of the new corporation. Rogers subsequently resigned and Paul A. Potter was elected to succeed him as Vice President. Guy W. Ballard died December 29, 1939. His son, Donald, succeeded him as President.

The organization was investigated by the Post Office Department in connection with a possible violation of the mail fraud statutes. FBI Agents, however, did the accounting work. Twenty-four individuals were indicted at Los Angeles, California, on August 23, 1940. The indictment alleged fraud through false representation, pretenses, and promises, resulting in the transmittal of money and other things of value to the defendants. It stated that Guy W. Ballard had been represented by the indicted individuals to have been selected by Saint Germain as a divine messenger. He was to transmit to mankind Saint Germain's words.

The indictment further alleged that Edna Ballard and Donald Ballard had also been selected as divine messengers through whom the words of alleged "ascending masters," including Saint Germain, would be communicated to mankind

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tam
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tam
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

MAILED 5
JUN 13 1947 P.M.
FBI

through the teachings of the "I Am" Movement.

These divine messengers had claimed to have obtained a supernatural state freeing them from disease, death, old age, poverty, and misery. Representations were also made that they could and would transmit this supernatural state to others willing to pay for it.

Only Mrs. Edna Ballard and her son, Donald, were found guilty upon trial. On February 17, 1942, Mrs. Ballard was given a suspended sentence of one year, fined $8,000, and placed on a year's probation. Her son was given a one-year suspended sentence, fined $400, and placed on probation for one year. Various allegations have been received by the FBI to the effect that the "I Am" Movement was engaged in activities inimical to the best interests of this country--including adherence to Nazism and Communism, and opposition to the recent war effort. Mrs. Ballard, however, claims her organization is a patriotic group and that Americanism is taught at all its meetings. Available information indicates that the "I Am" Cult has established local branches in many cities throughout the United States and has a considerable following.

I trust the above information will be of value.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards,

Sincerely yours,

NOTE: The above information obtained from File 62-56722-89 and 62-56722-122. It is noted that the investigation conducted under this file number into the activities of this organization, under an Internal Security-C and sedition character, was placed in a closed status in October, 1944.

FRY:
BMM:mrh

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
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Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
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EDWARD J. THYE, MINN. CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA.
JAMES M. KENDALL, CLERK

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

June 9, 1947

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

A constituent writes in to find out whether she can attend "I AM" meetings in Kansas City.

I do not know anything about this organization or these meetings and would appreciate any information you have that would help me reply to her request.

With great respect, I am

Sincerely yours,

James P. Kem

James P. Kem

K:E

RECORDED & INDEXED

EX-4

62-56722-131

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
DATE 2/4/82 BY SP8BT0/md

Files N/

July 26, 1948

RECORDED - 3

62-61742-132

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/14/82 BY SP6 [illegible]

Reverend Randolph E. Phillips
Box 094
631 Pine Street
Mount Shasta, California

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Your letter dated July 15, 1948, has been received and I appreciate your writing to me concerning the matter you mentioned. I regret that I cannot be of service in connection with your request for information which may be in the files of this Bureau, as, in accordance with a long-standing policy, our files are confidential and available for official use only. I am sure you will understand the reason for this rule and that no inference will be drawn that we do, or do not, have information in our files because of my inability to be of assistance. Accordingly, it will not be possible to have one of our Agents contact you in this regard. It is suggested that you may desire to contact the Chief Inspector, Post Office Department, Los Angeles, California, for any information which he may be able to furnish you concerning the trials held there.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: The "I Am" movement was originally conducted as a partnership by Guy W. Ballard and Edna Ballard and was incorporated as the Saint Germain Foundation in March, 1938, in the State of Illinois. Guy W. Ballard died in 1939. The present action was investigated by the Post Office

(See Next Page)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Department in connection with a possible violation of the mail fraud statutes and Agents of this Bureau did the accounting work. Twenty-four individuals were indicted at Los Angeles, California, in August, 1940, for fraud through false representations, pretenses, etc. Only Mrs. Edna Ballard and her son, Donald, were found guilty upon trial. In February, 1942, Mrs. Ballard received a suspended sentence of 1 year, was fined $8,000 and placed on one year's probation. Her son was given a one year suspended sentence, fined $400 and placed on probation for one year.

Various allegations have been received by the FBI to the effect that the "I Am" movement adhered to Nazism and Communism and opposed the recent war effort. Mrs. Ballard, however, claims her organization is a patriotic group and that Americanism is taught at all its meetings. Available information indicates that the cult has established local branches in many cities throughout the country and has a considerable following. It is noted that the investigation conducted into the activities of this organization under Internal Security - C, and Sedition character, was placed in a closed status in October, 1944. Reference file 62-56722-131.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

631 Pine Street
Mount Shasta, California
15 July 1948

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Headquarters
Washington, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

Gentlemen:

This is not a crank letter. It is an endeavour to check up on the religious sect called the Ballardites, the Foundation of St. Germain, or more popularly known as the "I AM" association.

As you undoubtedly know, the cult is now making Mount Shasta City its international headquarters. At least, this is th ir ultimatum to the people of this place. They have purchased much property here and intend to purchase more. They intend to set up international "markets" here. They intend to have a youth conclave here once a year.

Last evening, Mrs. G. W. Ballard and her staff appeared before an open meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of this place and made a speech. She appeared, as I understand it, of her own volition to appeal to the people of Mount Shasta for tolerance. She guaranteed that she would aid the City of Mount Shasta, materially. She would "bless us all". If, she said, we wanted her help she would gladly give it and thereby enable this city to prosper. If, she continued, we did not want her help she would lead her people off by themselves and carry on their own program. She wants the people of this town to watch her for a while and judge her by the fruits of her mighty works.

DEPARTMENT RECORDING

Frankly, she said nothing in her speech that was definite. She neither explained her cult nor did she state what "construction" for the good meant to her and to her people. She simply used the term "construction" time and time again without qualifying the term in the least. In the question and answer period which followed her speech, I asked her from the floor to define "construction". I told her that Hitler had told the Germans he would "construct" Germany and the world, and I cited several other examples of people who, in the past, have tried to construct a new world. She did not answer the question, but simply indulged in more platitudes. My remarks caused quite a disturbance. The president of the Chamber of Commerce said that I was introducing a religious controversy. He wanted it confined, he said, to commercial matters. Of course, she had spent one and one half hours about religion and had even had one of her "staff" play two selections of her sacred music on the piano in the middle of her speech that the audience might receive some of her power. She responded to the president of the chamber that since she had told us that she would "construct" our youth by religious means to prevent a third world war. I said, further, that in this instance it was necessary to know just what it was that she meant by construction. But, to no avail. The president was adamant and would allow no further mention of religion. The upshot was that he meeting ended in a near riot.

There were upwards of 200 people there.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/14/82 BY SP3 [illegible]

RECORDED - 132 156722
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31 JUL 30 1948
FBI

This morning, I have had several telephone calls from people in the community (most of them unknown to me completely and not members of my church) suggesting that I do what I could to get the "I AM" sect out of town and keep them there. I am willing to do what I can. I am the minister of the only recognized protestant churdh in the community. There is a Roman Catholic Church and the priest will undoubtedly do what he can. I am, further, a major in the chaplain reserve, Army of the United States. I served in the ETO as a combat chaplain from June 18th to VE Day. I received the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievment and the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal for heroic action. I am, further, a graduate of Brothers College, Drew University. I studied for one year at Yale. I received my B.D. degree at Union Theological Seminary. After the war I completed the work for the Ph.D. degree at Drew University in Christian Ethics. I am an ordained Methodist minister and am assigned to the California Conference of the Methodist Church. I mention this to let you know that I feel myself competent to lead a fight against what I assume is a sect of fakirs, swindlers, and whatever else the Ballardites are.

However, I am working in the dark. I cannot find out just what it is they believe. I know, for certain, practically nothing. I have talked with Mrs. Mary Lee Lathrop who claims some knowledge of the sect at first hand. She was ~~involved~~, she says, in the Los Angeles trial of the Ballardites. If what she tells me is true then we don't want them here or anyplace in the United States. Freedom of religion is not license to spread a false society among our people.

Therefore, I should like to appeal to your office for help. I need accurate, verifiable information, since I want to make no false statements. I have read the article in Coronet (June 1948) by Elmer Irey, former chief of Intelligence, U.S.Treasury. In that article Ballard is referred to as a swindler. Is that article a fact? I also have read an article by Freddie Francisco in the San Francisco Examiner of recent date. He calls Ballard a swindler. If these articles are fact, the sect is undoubtedly undesireable. I do not feel free to take as fact, though, newspaper articles unless they are verified by competent authority. Also, what about the trials? Can I get that information and get it verified? Will you please send me any information you can or, at least, tell me where I can get the facts? I would appreciate it if one of your agents could come here (if one is not already here) to advise me as to what to do and to give me some first hand information. I know, however, that your office is busy and may not consider this matter significant enough to warrant the time of your office. Please, in any event, advise me of what you can do and will do in this matter.

I am willing to do all I can and I know I shall have some following in the community and I am hoping that following will grow. If you think I should keep still, I shall do it if you can give me some good reasons for so doing. The fat is in the fire, now. The townspeople know I shall carry the fight to the Ballardites and I am not afraid of their "supposed" curses.

With kindest thanks, I am,

Sincerely,

Randolph E. Phillips

Rev. Randolph E. Phillips.

August 2, 1943

RECORDED - 52 62-56722-13

Honorable L. N. Lorenzen
City Attorney
59 Mount Shasta, California

DATE 12/14/82 SOB BTC/NB

My dear Mr. Lorenzen:

I have received your letter of July 20, 1943, and in response to your request, I am happy to furnish you with the following information which is a matter of public record concerning the "I Am" Society.

The "I Am" movement was originally conducted as a partnership by Guy W. Ballard and Edna Ballard, and was incorporated as the St. Germain Foundation in March, 1938, in the State of Illinois. Guy W. Ballard died in 1939. The organization was investigated by the Post Office Department in connection with a possible violation of the mail fraud statutes. Twenty-four individuals were indicted at Los Angeles, California in August, 1940, for fraud through false representations, pretenses, etc. Only Mrs. Edna Ballard and her son, Donald, were found guilty upon trial. In February, 1942, Mrs. Ballard received a suspended sentence of one year, was fined $2,000 and placed on one year's probation. Her son was given a one year suspended sentence, fined $400 and placed on probation for one year.

It is suggested that you may desire to communicate with Mr. D. L. Lambert, Chief Postal Inspector, San Francisco, California, for any further information which he may be able to give you concerning this organization. It is a pleasure to be of assistance to you in this regard.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

CC: San Francisco, with copy of incoming

Note: Information furnished above, which is a matter of public information, was taken from file 62-56722. Various allegations have been received by the FBI to the effect that the "I Am" movement adhered to Nazism and Communism and opposition to the recent War effort. Mrs. Ballard, however, claims her organization is a patriotic group and that Americanism is taught at all its meetings. Available information indicates that the Cult has established local branches in many cities throughout the country and has considerable following. It is noted that the investigation conducted into the activities of this organization under Internal Security—C, and Sedition character, was placed in a closed status in October, 1944.

PHL:mcq

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

AUG 2 1943 FBI

OFFICERSS
John Rule
City Clerk, City Judge
Felix Gaspari
Chief of Police
L. N. Lorenzen
City Attorney
Myrtie K. Davis
City Treasurer
C. B. Bills, Supt.
Water, Sewer & Streets

YEAR-AROUND RECREATIONAL CENTER

# CITY OF MOUNT SHASTA

Council Meets Second Friday in Each Month

MOUNT SHASTA, CALIFORNIA

CITY COUNCIL
Cathy M. Sehorn
Mayor
V. J. Andreatta
M. F. Sheldon
Charles Vietti
Floyd C. Bell

July 20, 1948

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/14/82 BY

Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington
D.C.

Gentlemen:

The Chief of Police of the City of Mt. Shasta has asked me to write you regarding the "I AM" religious society relative to their activities as to their being an asset or a liability to the community.

I may state that they have purchased considerable property here and some of our citizens seem quite concerned.

Thanking you for an early reply,

Sincerely yours L. N. LORENZEN

L. N. Lorenzen

City Attorney.

RECORDED - 52 162-56722-133
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INDEXED - 52

EX-59

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. H. B. Fletcher

FROM : F. J. Baumgardner

SUBJECT: "I AM" CULT

DATE: October 12, 1948

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Reference is made to the attached letter dated September 24, 1948, from Mr. Judson Ford of the United States Atomic Energy Commission to Mr. Victor P. Keay wherein it was requested that information be furnished to the Atomic Energy Commission regarding the doctrines of the "I Am" Cult.

ACTION: It is recommended that the attached memorandum concerning the "I Am" Cult be forwarded to the Atomic Energy Commission through the Liaison Unit.

Done 10/15/48

FRW:ras

ENCL

DATE 12/15/82 BY

RECORDED - 59

INDEXED - 59

62-56722-134

55 NOV

October 12, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

CONFIDENTIAL

**"I AM" CULT**

The "I Am" movement was conducted as a partnership by Guy W. Ballard and Edna W. Ballard under the name of Saint Germain Press from its organization sometime in 1934 or 1935 until March 2, 1938, when the Saint Germain Foundation was formed by Guy W. Ballard, Edna W. Ballard, and Harry N. Rogers, who became charter members. The Saint Germain Foundation was to be a nonprofit corporation the purposes of which were to teach by word of mouth, through radio and phonograph records, by the printed word and other available means the doctrines of the "I Am" movement.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP&BD/... ON 6/28/83 per letter dated 4/11/83

On March 24, 1938, the articles of corporation for the Saint Germain Corporation were filed with the Secretary of the State of Illinois. The chief officers were Guy W. Ballard, president, Harry N. Rogers, vice president, and Mrs. Edna W. Ballard, secretary-treasurer. On July 18, 1939, Harry N. Rogers resigned as vice president and member of the board of directors of this organization and was replaced by Paul A. Potter. Donald Ballard was elected to succeed his father, Guy W. Ballard, who died on December 29, 1939.

In December 1939, a subscription agreement was entered into proposing to organize the Saint Germain Press, Inc. under the laws of the State of Illinois for the purpose of printing, publishing, buying and selling books and other printed matter. The subscribers were Louise Majerus, Cecil J. Majerus and Paul A. Potter. On December 12, 1939, a certificate of corporation was issued by the Secretary of the State of Illinois authorizing the Saint Germain Press, Inc. to commence business. On January 1940, the officers of the corporation were collected and Donald Ballard was elected president, Paul A. Potter vice president, and Edna W. Ballard, secretary-treasurer.

This Bureau began receiving complaints in January 1940 to the effect that the "I Am" movement was engaged in activities inimical to the best interests of this country. Also numerous letters were received supporting this organization and claiming it to be thoroughly loyal to this country. This organization was investigated by the Post Office Department in connection with a possible violation of the mail fraud statutes. As a result of the investigation by the Post Office Department an indictment was returned by the Federal Grand Jury at Los Angeles, California, on August 28, 1940, against 24 individuals. This indictment alleged that a large number of people were defrauded through false representations, pretenses, and promises. It also stated that the victims purchased books, magazines, pictures, etc. offered for sale by the organization and these individuals were induced to become followers and accept the teachings of the "I Am" movement and were induced to give money and other things of value to the

COPIES DESTROYED
OCT 27 ... 96

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

FRW:ras
F.R. Warner

orig to ... 10/15/48

CONFIDENTIAL

organization because of these false representations. This indictment alleged that Guy W. Ballard, who died at Los Angeles, California, on December 29, 1939, was represented by the individuals indicted to have been selected by the alleged "Ascended Master" Saint Germain as a divine messenger and it was stated that the words of the alleged divinity Saint Germain would be transmitted to mankind through the medium of Guy W. Ballard. The indictment further alleged that Edna W. Ballard, wife of Guy W. Ballard, and Donald Ballard, son of Guy W. Ballard, were stated to have been selected as divine messengers through whom the words of the alleged "Ascended Masters" including Saint Germain would be communicated to mankind under the teachings known as the "I Am" movement. It was further stated that Guy W. Ballard, during his lifetime, Edna W. Ballard, and Donald Ballard had claimed to have obtained a state of super immortality which condition enabled them to be entirely free from ailments common to man. It was alleged that all of these representations were made for the false and fraudulent purpose of securing money and other things of value from the persons intended to be defrauded and that the individuals indicted knew the representations to be false. (62-56722-58 and 89)

Although 24 individuals were indicted on November 4, 1940, the indictments against 14 of them were nolle prossed. The indictment against one of the individuals was dismissed, three of the remaining individuals were acquitted and the jury having disagreed as to the others was dismissed January 20, 1941. On April 12, 1941, new indictments were returned as to the remaining 6 defendents and in a trial extending from December 2, 1941 through January 31, 1942, Mrs. Edna W. Ballard and her son Donald Ballard were found guilty while the other defendents were acquitted. On Feburary 17, 1942, Mrs. Ballard was given a suspended sentence of one year, fined $8,000 and placed on probation for one year while her son was given a one year suspended sentence, fined $400 and placed on probation for one year. (62-56722-59,76-89)

During the course of the investi ation in Los Angeles in the early part of Feburary 1942, it was determined that many of the published statements of the "I Am" movements and oral statements made by Mrs. Ballard had condemned former President Roosevelt for permitting an investigation to be made of the "I Am" organization by the Post Office Department and for permitting the prosecution of the leaders. (62-56722-77)

It was reported at Santa Fe that the "I Am" movement was a Communist group moving to the interior of the country after being advised to do so by the Communists of the Pacific Coast inasmuch as the Communists were organized for the express purpose of taking command of railways and blocking highways in order to stop travel and transportation of troops. Investigation at that time in Santa Fe, New Mexico, failed to reveal the sources of this rumor as well as the rumor that the West Coast would be bombed on Feburary 12, 1942.

Mrs. Edna W. Ballard was interviewed in Denver, Colorado, concerning the above rumors and she advised that the decrees of the "I Am" Cult had alwa's

Best Available Copy

condemned Communism and tried to make the American people conscious of the evils of Communism. Mrs. Ballard claimed that her organization was a patriotic group and that in all their meetings Americanism was taught.

(62-56722-66)

It was reported in 1942 by another governmental agency that the "I Am" Cult was some times known as the "Purple Cult" and was stated to be a religious movement which had four subversive aspects. First: Members were urged to will that Saint Germain blast the president from the earth. Second: The members were told that no oath is binding. Third: Leaders urged members not to buy defense bonds. Fourth: Members are urged not to register for the draft. This movement also teaches the doctrine of reincarnation and that members can get any material object by willful thinking. It was further said that the meetings achieve a frenzied mass hypnotism.

It was further reported by an individual who claimed to be a member of the "I Am" Cult in Santa Fe, New Mexico, that the principal topic of discussion at meetings was the obtaining of money by means of love gift boxes. This individual also furnished the pledge card used by "I Am" members who join what is known as the one hundred per cent "I Am" class. The pledge is as follows:

"I desire to so LIVE that the Ascended Masters CAN work through me at any moment! To be worthy of this Great Privilege I MUST put into practice and LIVE the suggestions which They Make. I know that by so doing I too WILL gain My Eternal Freedom and Ascension. I am thoroughly aware that these are, in brief:

"THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME". Bible. 1st Commandment. 1936 Sep. Voice P 4.

"Every individuals first duty is Adoration and Love to the "One Mighty I AM Presence, to gain his Mastery, Eternal Freedom and make his Ascension as soon as possible". Saint Germain and Jesus. The Magic Presence, and Discourses.

"Whatever your attention is upon is your God, for there your energy is flowing and your energy IS your life. "Saint Germain. 1936 Sep. Voice P. 4. Read P XXX-3 Discourses.

"I URGE the students everywhere, with all of the Love at My command, to FORGET EVERYTHING ELSE YOU HAVE EVER STUDIED, STAND ONE HUNDRED PER CENT IN AND WITH YOUR "MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE," and the "I AM DISCOURSES" by SAINT GERMAIN, and you will have such Freedom, such Joy, such Accomplishment, that will forever dissolve all doubt and fear from your consciousness. When such Great Freedom is at your door, just for your acceptance and application, can you understand how great is Our Love and Desire to fully enable you to grasp those simple majestic Laws, that you may have the same Freedom which we experience? However, THIS CAN ONLY COME THROUGH YOUR JOYFUL WILLING ACCEPTANCE AND APPLICATION OF THESE TRUTH WHICH WE GIVE." Jesus. 1936 Feb. Voice, P. 5.

Consequently I have absolutely severed ALL connections with ALL Occult Orders, Spiritualism, and organizations that might divert my attention and possibly prevent me from STANDING ONE HUNDRED PER CENT WITH MY OWN "MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE."

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 05-09-2018 BY: [redacted]

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b7C

(U) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

I shall Never Again have any thing to do with astrology, numerology, crystal - gazing, ouiji board, automatic writing, Tarot cards, mediums, and all such things.

I shall Never Again use "scrums" - "narcotics, alcohol, meat - all flesh foods-, tobacco, excess sugar, excess salt, and strong coffee." Magic Presence P 147-8. I shall not use garlic or onions, knowing the Ascended Masters will not come near if I do. I will use diligently the Remedy, the Violet Consuming Flame of Divine Love, for these things, to cleanse and purify my Temple. Magic Presence P 149.

I "will refuse in the future to listen to any silly human gossip, criticism, condemnation and judgement of anything or about anybody. Instead I will call the Mighty I AM Presence into action to produce Its Perfection everywhere I move and in everything I do, so that Great Marvels and Mighty Miracles will take place. "I absolutely "refuse acceptance" of all human creation and limitation.

I SHALL "stand as if there were nothing else in the World and Universe but the "I AM Presence". Great Divine Director, 1935 Voice, P 11-13.

I shall keep my FEELINGS harmonized, "no matter what the provocation". "Saint Germain. 1936 Sep. Voice P 15.

I am aware that the Divine Creative sex force is to be used solely for providing a physical vehicle for a Brother seeking physical re-embodiment.

"I give ALL POWER to the I AM PRESENCE, which I AM, and I refuse with determination acceptance to anything else, ever again," Saint Germain. Discourses P 393. "I forever withdraw all power I have ever given to outer things, and stand serene in Thy Majestic Presence - Love, Wisdom and Power."

"There is only ONE POWER that acts, Give It Full Freedom, Stand with IT and Let IT act. There is No Other Power to act." P 100.

I must call the Law of Forgiveness into action daily. "I AM the Law of Forgiveness and Forgetfulness of ALL human creation, and the Consuming Flame of All inharmonious action and human consciousness."

I have read Unveiled Mysteries, The Magic Presence and "I AM" Discourses by Godfre Ray King, and will endeavor to apply diligently the Truths therein given.

I know that in the outer it is possible to deceive other Brothers but NOT God, the "Mighty I Am Presence" or the Ascended Masters, whom I earnestly and sincerely desire to serve. I know that the Mighty Master Within is "my Certain Victory". My signature is my decree and I SHALL abide by and LIVE Their suggestions, and on this basis I desire to be a member of your 10 % "I AM" Class." 100-56722-85 (SIC)

No investigation has been conducted by the Bureau concerning the "I AM" Cult since 1944.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

February 24, 1949

(U)

RECORDED - 110 62-56722-1

EX-3

[redacted]

b7D

(U)

My dear Chief:

(U)

I have received your letter of February 16, 1949. Although I would like to be of service, the specific activities you mentioned are within the jurisdiction of the Post Office Department. Accordingly, I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of your letter to the Chief Inspector, Post Office Department, Pennsylvania Avenue between 12th and 13th Streets, Northwest, Washington, D. C., in order that this agency may be of any possible assistance in connection with your request for data concerning such activities on the part of the organization you mentioned.

(U)

Sincerely yours,

NOTE: The organization "I Am" was investigated by the P.O. Department in connection with a possible violation of the Mail Fraud statutes and an indictment was returned against it by the Federal Grand Jury at Los Angeles on 8-28-40. It was a cult conducted as a partnership under the name of the St. Germain Press from 1934 or 1935 until March, 1938, when it was set up as a nonprofit corporation. The Bureau received numerous allegations that it was involved in un-American activities during World War II. However, no investigation of it has been conducted by the Bureau since 1944. (62-56722)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

MAILED 15
FEB 25 1949 P.M.
WH:SO
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

58 MAR 3 1949

21-A

April 4, 1949

66143

RECORDED - 72

INDEXED - 72

EX-126

Mr. J. G. Kastl
20 Byron Avenue West
London, Ontario, Canada

Dear Mr. Kastl:

I have received your letter dated March 25, 1949, and although I would like to be of service you are advised that the activities concerning which you have written do not come within the primary investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. I am, therefore, taking the liberty of sending a copy of your letter to the Chief Inspector, Post Office Department, Pennsylvania Avenue between 12th and 13th Streets, Northwest, Washington 25, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC: Foreign Service

NOTE: Correspondent's letter is being directed to Postal authorities by form. File 62-56732 reflects that the "I Am" organization was investigated by Postal authorities in connection with a mail fraud violation and an indictment was returned by the Federal Grand Jury of Los Angeles on August 28, 1940, against 24 individuals in connection with the organization's claim that Guy W. Ballard, Edna W. Ballard and Donald Ballard obtained a state of superimmortality.

ARA:fk

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

283 B

20 Byron Avenue West,

London, Ontario,

66142

March 25, 1949.

Dear Sirs:

I wonder if you could send me any information in regards to a Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Ballard and son Donald, and their activities in an organization under the name of,"The I AM Activity".

The reason I am requesting this information is, in the last couple of years there has been an organization under the above name that has invaded our city, and as I am only an ordinary citizen I can not do anything about it without some concrete information. Some of my closest friends are involved and have become ardent followers of the activity.

I read an article in the Coronet Magazine, I believe it was the June issue 1948. The article was written by a member of the Treasury Department and was concerning said Mr. Ballard. I would appreciate any information in regards to this activity and any assistance you could suggest in putting a stop to the growth of it's followers.

YOURS truly, J. B. Masti

49
3-3
19

RECORDED - 72 163-56722-136
INDEXED - 72 F B I
13 APR 11 1949

EX-126

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-15-82 BY SP8 BRD/ns

2132

May 24, 1949 AIR MAIL

RECORDED - 123

137 66140

Mrs. M. Dulbocca
442 Robinson Place
Shreveport, Louisiana

Dear Mrs. Dulbocca:

Your letter of May 16, 1949, has been received. I regret that I cannot be of service in connection with your request for information which may be in the files of this Bureau, as, in accordance with Departmental regulations, our files are confidential and available for official use only. I am sure you will understand the reason for this rule and that no inference will be drawn that we do, or do not, have information in our files because of my inability to be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,

S.I.R.-8

John Edgar Hoover
Director

WN:rlc

DATE 12/15/82 BY SP8BTZ/mg

DECLASSIFIED
DATE: 6/26/84

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

442 Robinson Place
Shreveport, Louisiana
May 16, 1949

F.B.I.
Washington, D.C.

66141

Gentlemen:

I have been asked by a friend for my evaluation of the "I AM" movement. Since I have read only one book, been to only one lecture, and talked personally with only one of their leaders (Mr. Stickel), I hesitate to say what I think before investigating further. If I had to give my judgment at this time, it would be that some of their teachings are based on spiritual and psychological truths that are not wholly recognized by the orthodox faiths, but that there is a lot of what I call nonsense about communication with and visions of people who are dead; furthermore, that this business of issuing "decrees" can be very dangerous in the wrong hands -- and I think any good psychologist would agree with me.

I want to find out what I can about the leaders. My feeling is that they are either weak-minded or psychopathic or charlatans. However, I may be wrong and I am hoping that you can either tell me something about them (the only ones whose names I know are a Mrs. Ballard, a Godfry Ray King, and a Mr. Stickel) and about the St. Germain Foundation, or else direct me to a reliable source of information -- some responsible agency, either governmental or non-governmental. I seem to remember vaguely something in the newspapers some years ago about income tax evasion and using the mails to defraud. Is there such a thing as a Better Business Bureau which has information on a national scale? This comes to my mind because I understand that every local "I AM" group which buys a house for their meetings has to deed it over to the St. Germain Foundation. To whom do the assets of the St. Germain Foundation belong legally?

I am enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope and shall appreciate any information you can give me.

Very truly yours,

Grace Provost Bulboaca

GRACE PROVOST BULBOACA

(Mrs. M. Bulboaca)

Encl.

RECORDED - 123
INDEXED - 123

62-56722-

BEN. A. RODERICK JR
18 F BORDNER ST
CANTON, OHIO

JUNE 19, 1951

DEAR SIRS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
DATE 12/15/82 BY SP8 BLG/ng

I AM O I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PERTINENT INFORMATION IN REGARD TO AN ORGANIZATION (RELIGIOUS) WHICH GOES BY THE NAME OF "I Am". IT WAS FOUNDED BY A MR & MRS BAILARD THE FORMER NOW BEING DEAD. IT IS NOW BELIEVED THAT MRS BAILARD NOW RUNS THIS GROUP ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER SUBORDINATE PEOPLE. ONE OF MY CLOSEST RELATIVES IS INDUCED IN THIS GROUP, SPENDING MUCH TIME AND MONEY.

Mrs Ballard

EXPEDITE PROCESSING.
JUN 21 1951 B

62-57722-138
RECORDED - 118
INDEXED - 118
JUN 27 1951
37

I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION OR ADVICE WHICH YOU MAY HAVE.

Ben A. Roderick Jr

SINCERELY

Ben A. Roderick

Nine
Feb 6-25-51
Asa

Best Available Copy

June 25, 1951

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/15/82 BY SP6 BTS/mg

Mr. Ben A. Roderick, Jr.
165 Bordner Street
Carton, Ohio

RECORDED - 118 62-56722-134

Dear Mr. Roderick:

Your letter dated June 19, 1951, has been received.

In response to your inquiry you are advised that information in the files of the FBI is restricted and I am, therefore, unable to furnish information regarding the organization mentioned in your letter.

I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of your communication to the Chief Inspector, Post Office Department, Pennsylvania Avenue between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets, Northwest, Washington, D. C., as being of possible interest in connection with matters coming within the jurisdiction of that Department.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Bufile 62-56722-134 contains information concerning the "I Am" organization which was investigated by the Post Office Department in connection with mail frauds, with a resulting indictment of 24 individuals by a Federal Grand Jury in Los Angeles, on 8-28-40. A copy of the incoming correspondence is being directed to the Post Office Inspector by separate form letter.

ARA:mad:rm

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Belmont
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

FBI
JUSTICE
MAIL ROOM
12 3B PM '51

TRUE COPY

Ben A. Roderick, Jr.
155 Bordner Street
Canton, Ohio

June 19, 1951

Dear Sirs:

I would like to have pertinent information in regard to an organization (Religious) which goes by the name of "I Am". It was founded by a Mr. and Mrs. Ballard, the former now being dead. It is now believed that Mrs. Ballard now runs this group along with several other subordinate people. One of my closest relatives is deeply involved in this group, spending much time and money.

I would appreciate any information or advice which you may have.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ben. A. Roderick, Jr.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/15/82 BY SP8 BLO MJ

June 22, 1954

RECORDED - 33 62-56722-139

66139

INDEXED - 83

Mrs. Lena H. Lovitt
1320 East 36th Street
Kansas City 3, Missouri

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/15/82 BY

Dear Mrs. Lovitt:

Your letter dated June 9, 1954, has been received.

While I would like to be of assistance in connection with your inquiry, I must advise that in accordance with a Departmental regulation data contained in the files of this Bureau is maintained as confidential and available for official use only. I am sure you will understand the necessity for this regulation and no inference will be drawn because of my inability to be of assistance that we do or do not have in our files the information you have requested.

Sincerely yours,

COMM - FBI
JUN 22 1954
MAILED 23

John Edgar Hoover
Director

2 cc - Kansas City (with copies of incoming)

Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent and the individuals mentioned in her letter. The organization "I AM" was investigated by the Post Office Department in connection with mail frauds and 24 individuals were indicted by Federal Grand Jury in Los Angeles on August 28, 1940. The Bureau received numerous allegations that it was involved in Un-American activities during World War II. However, no investigation of the organization has been conducted by the Bureau since 1944.

SAC, KANSAS CITY:

You are requested to search your office files concerning individuals mentioned by correspondent and thereafter be guided by current Bureau instructions governing security matters.

Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Gearty
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Miss Gandy

5 JUL 6 1954

MJR: jal

F4S4

Kansas City, Missouri.
June 9, 1954.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/15/12 BY SP2 STP/mg

J. Edgar Hoover, Esquire,
Chief, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:-

I am writing you in regard to Communist Infiltration in The "I AM" Activity here in Kansas City.

I have been a member of The "I AM" Activity for a number of years, and just recently, a lady who knew I was a member, asked me if The "I AM" was Communistic? I said "NO', just the opposite, The "I AM" stands for everything that is Good, Honorable and Holy, and you know the Communist do not."

Well, she says,- "I have a friend, a Printer, who has been printing Communistic Literature for a man, and this man is a doctor and is at the head of the Communist Organization here in Kansas City; and he also told the Printer that he was a member of The "I AM", and that The "I AM" is a Communist Organization."

Now that is a falsehood, in fact a lie. The "I AM" Activity is a Patriotic, Educational and Religious Activity, and our membership represents only those who are striving for Perfection for themselves, mankind and the whole world.

I have tried to find out who this man is, but the lady who told me does not care to be involved and does not care to involve the Printer, so I went to the F. B. I. Office here and was interviewed by Mr. Burke, and he said I would have to write you and ask for the name of this man, as he was not privileged to give it out.

Since I have heard about this, I am just a little suspicious of some of our members, and I would like to submit their names for verification, as to whether or not, they are members of the Communist Organization,, namely, as follows:

EX-108

62-72-139

RECORDED - 93

INDEXED - 83

10 JUN 1954

Dr. Harold L. Poole, a Chiropractor. His office is at #3319 Prospect Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, and he lives on his 180-acre farm at Blue Springs, Mo., which is about twenty-five miles from Kansas City.

Dr. Jerry L. Crownover, a Chiropractor and who is Dr. Pool's son-in-law. His office address is also #3319 Prospect Ave., K. C. Mo., and he also lives on a farm about seven miles from Dr. Poole.

Mr. James S. McMillen, who is a nephew of Dr. Poole. I do not know his occupation. He lives here in the City, but I am not sure of his address.

Miss Hattie E. Heithecker, lives at #3019 Montgall St., K.C. Mo. and is a sales-lady for the Avon Cosmetics.

All of the above men, their wives and children, and Miss Heithecker, are members of The "I AM" Activity here, so I would appreciate very much, if you would inform me as to the status of these people, for if they want to be Communist, we have no place for them in our Organization.

If none of the above named are Communist, could you tell me the name of the man who is at the head of their Organization here, that I may check farther, as we also have other doctors in our Organization.

I have not revealed this to any of our members; have just decided to take it upon myself to find out the truth about it, and if it does happen to be true, I will submit it to the proper officials of The "I AM" Organization.

Thanking you for your cooperation in this matter, I am,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lena H. Lovitt

Mrs. Lena H. Lovitt.

#1320 East 36th Street,
Kansas City 3, Missouri.

819 So. Glenoaks Blvd
Burbank - Calif.

Gentlemen of our Federal Government,

ALL INFORMATION HEREIN IS UNCL DATE 12/15/92 BY

I register a definite protest ~~as a taxpayer~~ and citizen of our Country, at one woman called Edna W. Ballard, head of the I AM activity, located at Chicago, Illinois - called The "Saint" Germain" Foundation - she is, without a doubt, the most reviling, dirty mouthed, destroyer of my Constitutional rights and Privileges, she uses my voice and persecutes me daily, even every hour, for 42½ months, and has done it to others, needlessly, please force her to leave us alone so our homes are worth living in.

EX-112

62-5

REC- 35 CORRESPONDENCE

ack 1-13-61 DCL:jm

3 thru copies 1-10-61

do sleep enough at night, that process would be stopped, and she cold deadly runs it on, until suicide is our escape. Why is she not deported as menace to American way of life?

Sincerely a Citizen

Mary E. Steinle.

as a student at one time for some
rs like herself originally. She hounded
ex student in San Francisco, into
nitariums, ask her how it is done!
ear this is the Gods Truth. I have
witnesses.

JAN 6 10 42 AM '61
RECD-CORR-&-TOURS
FBI

NC

...N CONTAINED
...ASSIFIED
... 808 BYJ/mg

6722-140

15 JAN 11 1961

SAC, Los Angeles 62-56722-140 1-10-61

REC-35 66137

Director, FBI

EX-112

MARY E. STEINLE
819 SOUTH GLENOAKS BOULEVARD
BURBANK, CALIFORNIA
RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

Enclosed are two copies of a letter postmarked 1-4-61 received from captioned individual. Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles, and this letter is not being acknowledged. Since the writer implies she may be contemplating suicide, you are instructed to make this fact known immediately to one of your contacts in the Burbank Police Department. Inasmuch as the organization, "I Am," has been subject of past investigation by postal authorities, a copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Post Office Department.

Enclosures (2)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/14/82 BY SP8CAS/mg

NOTE: "I Am" has a long unsavory record of mail fraud and the Bureau received numerous allegations that it was involved in Un-American activities during World War II; no investigation, however, of the group has been conducted by the Bureau since 1944. (62-56722). Copy of incoming by form to Post Office Department.

DCL:jpr
(4)

MAILED 30
JAN 10 1961
COMM-FBI

Tolson
Mohr
Parsons
Belmont
Callahan
DeLoach
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
C. Sullivan
Mr. Roo
Bishop
Gandy

62 JAN 17 1961

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

TRUE COPY

819 So. Glenoaks Blvd
Burbank - Calif.

Gentlemen of our Federal Government,

I register a definite protest as a taxpayer and citizen of our Country, at one woman called Edna W. Ballard, head of the "I AM activity, located at Chicago, Illinois--called The "Saint"? Germain" Foundation--she is, without a doubt, the most reviling, dirty mouthed, destroyer of my Constitutional rights and Privileges, she uses my voice and persecutes me daily, even every hour, for 42 1/2 months, and has done it to others, needlessly, please force her to leave us alone so our homes are worth living in. we do sleep enough at night, that prooves it could be stopped, and she cold bloodedly runs it on, until suicide is our only escape. Why is she not deported as a menace to American way of life?

Sincerely a Citizen

/s/ Mary E. Steinle.

I was a student at one time for some years like herself originally. She hounded one ex student in San Francisco, into 3 Sanitariums, ask her how it is done! I swear this is the Gods Truth. I have 12 witnesses.

3 true copies
1-9-61
yjw
and ack: 1-10-61
DCL:yjw

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/15/92 BY SP6 STD/LW

4-528

62-56722-141

**CHANGED TO**

62-111238-1

NOV 3 1966

BC/ECB

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/14/82 BY SP5 BJ

C

P. BRIEN WILSON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
10350 SARATOGA - SUNNYVALE ROAD
CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA 95014
TELEPHONE (408) 257-2000

March 13, 1970

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C.

Re: Estate of Anderson
I Am Sanctuary
St. Germain Foundation

Dear Sir:

I have filed a Will Contest in the Estate of Gertrude E. Anderson on behalf of my client, the daughter of the deceased. There is $375,000.00 in the estate which was left to the Saint Germain Foundation and the I Am Sanctuary. It was left under very unusual circumstances. I am meeting shortly with a representative of the California Attorney General's office to examine their files regarding the aforementioned organizations.

It is our position that the Will was written under the undue influence of the I Am Sanctuary and Saint Germain Foundation.

If any representative of your organization has investigated this organization I would very much appreciate his calling me COLLECT at his earliest convenience.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation,

Very truly yours,

P. Brien Wilson

P. Brien Wilson 62-56722-147

REC 9 MCT-23

PBW:db
cc: W. J. Warren

AIR MAIL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/15/82 BY SP8 BCW/mg

CORRESPONDENCE

airtel 3-30-70 DCL:lyf

REC 9

62-56722 142

March 23, 1970

AIRMAIL

Mr. P. Brien Wilson
10350 Saratoga - Sunnyvale Road
Cupertino, California 95014

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/15/82 BY SP8BTC/lcg

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Although I would like to be of service in answer to your letter of March 13th, information in FBI files must be maintained as confidential pursuant to regulations of the Department of Justice. I regret I am unable to be of assistance in this instance.

MAILED 22
MAR 23 1970
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Wilson is not identifiable in Bufiles nor is Gertrude E. Anderson, based on the information furnished. The organization, Saint Germain Foundation, previously called also only "I Am," was investigated by the Bureau in the early 1940's under caption of "Internal Security - C; Sedition" following numerous allegations that it was involved in un-American activities during World War II. It was also investigated by the Post Office Department in connection with mail frauds and 24 individuals were consequently indicted by Federal Grand Jury in Los Angeles on 8-28-40. The group previously had headquarters in Los Angeles, then Santa Fe, New Mexico, and mail dated 1968 from the Chicago Office stated its head, Mrs. G. W. Ballard, and the Foundation were then located in Chicago, the organization owning buildings a full block long. It is a religious cult and noted for taking huge amounts of money as donations. (62-56722 and 65-71968-3)

DCL:jfh (3)

Tolson
DeLoach
Walters
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Soyars
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

59APR 18 1970

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

June 18, 1974

AIRMAIL

REC 107

62-56722-143

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/15/82 BY SP8 BTJ/mg
2c #225,140

Miss Jeanne MacRonald
Post Office Box 949
Hamilton 5, Bermuda Islands

Dear Miss MacRonald:

In response to your letter of June 9th, with enclosures, this Bureau is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. I hope you will not infer that we do or do not have material in our files relating to the I Am Religion.

MAILED 6
JUN 18 1974
FBI

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Admin. ____
Comp. Syst. ____
Ext. Affairs ____
Files & Com. ____
Gen. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Inspection ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Plan. & Eval. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Legal Coun. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director Sec'y ____

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. The I Am organization, currently called the Saint Germain Foundation, was investigated by the Bureau in the early 1940's under the caption of IS-C; Sedition following numerous allegations that it was involved in unAmerican activities during World War II. It was also investigated by the Post Office Department in connnection with mail frauds and 24 individuals were consequently indicted by Federal Grand Jury in Los Angeles 8/28/40. It is a religious cult and known for taking huge amounts of money as donations..

cam:cmc (3)

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

JCB
14

P.O. Box 949,
Hamilton 5,
Bermuda.

June 9 1974.

Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Fraud & Confidence Tricksters,
Washington D.C.,
U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

Before you read any further let me assure you that I am not a "crack pot" and that I am quite serious.

This coming August I am to be married to a really wonderful man but I am very suspicious of his religion, which he wishes me to join.

It is the "I AM Religion" and he talks of himself as being an "I AM Student". It would appear to me that one can believe in a religion without going to great expense. The "I AM Religion" is the exact opposite. It requires its "students" to buy special books written by Godfre Ray King (printed by the Saint Germain Press Inc., 8409-11 Stony Island Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60617); mystical charts and drawings of wierd looking ascended masters; records of I AM music; song folders; crystal cups; decree books, etc.

There are many I AM Temples all over the U.S.A., their main one being in Chicago. I have enclosed the one in Massachusetts.

REC 107 62-56722-143
20
JUN 19 1974

Is this a recognised religion or is it some kind of racket and could hypnosis be a part of their indoctrination process? The reason I ask this is because my fiancee is a very intelligent level headed person studying to be a Chartered Accountant and this religion is so wierd and contrary to his entire nature that I am wondering if the teachers of this religion resort to group hypnosis to induce their students to believe everything they say without questioning it.

ACK
6-18-74
Cam/cmc
2-ENCLOSURE
Attached - not sent to file

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/15/82 BY SP8C2/bg

COMM-FBI

AL

ER

DATE 4/11/92

I AM Temple

46 High Street

Stoneham

Massachusetts

U.S.A. 02180

I have read the first two requried reading books, "Unveiled Mysteries" and " The Magic Presence" and quite frankly it sounds like utter nonsence which no person in their right mind would actually believe.

Please find out if this is a legitimate religion. It is very important to me because my fiancee has just invested $2000 to be given, plussall interest earned, to the Saint Germain Foundation. I AM Students are encouraged to stay out of debt but to give all excess money which they do not require to the Foundation. Which sounds a little fishy tome.

I would very much appreciate your reply by first class air mail. Many thanks for your help in this matter, looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jeanne MacRonald

Jeanne MacRonald (Miss)

Enc.

INFORMATION CONTAINED